Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-145
Monday
29 July 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-145 29 July 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq 'Ready To Release All Kuwaiti Prisoners' *[MENA]* 1
Arab Paper Criticizes U.S. Position on Jerusalem *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 25 Jul]* 1
'Amended Text' of Damascus Declaration Published
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Jul] 2

Palestinian Affairs

USSR's Bessmertnykh Sends Message to 'Arafat *[Sanaa VOP]* 3
'Arafat Sends Messages to Gorbachev, Bessmertnykh *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Al-Husayni Views French, U.S. Roles in Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 4
UK, Sweden Roles Viewed *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Spokesman on 'Great Interest' in Bush's Appeal *[Tunis Radio]* 4
Further on Spokesman's Statements *[Tunis Radio]* 5
Al-Surani Urges PLO Invitation to Conference *[AFP]* 5
Qaddumi on Representation, 'Deceptive' U.S. Policy *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 27 Jul]* 6
Comments on Appointing Delegation *[Algiers VOP]* 6
Spokesman Spells Out Position on Peace Process *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
Popular Groups Condemn Arab 'Concessions' *[Sanaa VOP]* 7
Commentary Lambasts Arab Concessions to Israel *[Algiers VOP]* 8
Commentary Notes 'Painful' Arab Reality *[Algiers VOP]* 8
PLO's Salah on Palestinians' Rights in Lebanon *[VOM]* 9
DFLP Claims Responsibility for 25 Jul Attack *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 27 Jul]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Results Reported as FIS Conference Concludes *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Another FIS Member Suspended *[Algiers TV]* 10
Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Saddam Message *[INA]* 10
Received by President *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Cabinet Briefed on Preparations for Dialogue Talks *[Algiers TV]* 10
49 Parties To Participate in Government Meeting *[Algiers Radio]* 11
FLN Aide on Recent Central Committee Session *[Algiers Radio]* 11

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Visit to Europe *[Cairo Radio]* 11
Leaders, Press Comment on Upcoming Visit by Levi 11
Foreign Minister on Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 11
Additional Remarks *[MENA]* 12
AL-AHRAM Interviews Levi *[MENA]* 12
Deputy Prime Minister Comments *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Jul]* 13
Israel Urged To Stop Hindering Talks *[MENA]* 13
'Shamir's Maneuvers' Viewed *[MENA]* 14
Israeli Attack on Pakistan Planned *[MENA]* 14
Iraqi Arrives for Arab Communications Conference *[MENA]* 14
*Mubarak Expected To Meet al-Qadhdhafi, al-Bashir *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Jul]* ... 15

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From al-Qadhdhafi *[MENA]* 15
Mubarak Receives Delegation, al-Qadhdhafi Message *[Cairo Radio]* 15

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Marks Spanish Occupation of Tripoli *[JANA]* 15

Mauritania

'Text' of New Law Governing Political Parties *[Nouakchott Radio]* 16
Freedom of Press Law *[Nouakchott Radio]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Iraqi Claims of Air Space Violations 'False' *[KUNA]* 20
Minister Announces Resumption of Oil Exports *[KUNA]* 20
Ministry Denies Palestinian Envoy's Presence *[KUNA]* 20
Deputy Prime Minister Grants Interview *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 24 Jul]* 21

Oman

Message From Jordanian Prime Minister Received *[Muscat Radio]* 22

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Addresses Somali Conference Delegation *[Riyadh TV]* 22

IRAQ

Saddam Addresses Martyrs' Families, Assails Iran *[INA]* 24
UN Nuclear Inspection Team Arrives 27 Jul *[INA]* 26
Activities Reported *[INA]* 26
IAEA Report on Nuclear Program Examined *[Vienna PROFIL 29 Jul]* 27
UN Envoy Protests U.S. Airspace Violations *[INA]* 28
Oil Minister on Preparing Pipelines for Export *[INA]* 28
Saddam Reportedly Executes 90 Guard Officers *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 29

ISRAEL

Shamir—Talks 'Only a Short Time Away' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Arens—Response to U.S. Due 'Soon' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Golan 'No Subject for Negotiations' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Views Mubarak 'Attacks' on Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
'Sources'—Syria Might Talk Without Palestinians *[DAVAR 28 Jul]* 31
U.S. Told No Discussion of Lebanon With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Cabinet Told Lebanon Willing To Enter Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Levi 'Furious' With Ministers on Talks Positions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Netanyahu on al-Asad Remarks, Peace Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
'Ashrawi—No Palestinian Concessions on Jerusalem *[HA'ARETZ 26 Jul]* 34
Meridor—Compromise 'Inconceivable' *[Jerusalem TV]* 35
Additional Meridor Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Minister on Possible U.S. 'Maneuvers and Tricks' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Tehiya's Ne'eman—'Egyptian Peace Stinks' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Sources Doubt Invitations To Be Given in Moscow *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Sharon on Housing Immigrants in West Bank *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Jul]* 37
Tzomet Withdraws Threat To Quit Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Mubarak Seen Replacing al-Asad as Arab Extremist *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Jul]* 37

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi, Karami, al-Husayni Leave for Damascus *[VOL]* 38
Statement on Damascus Summit *[Beirut Radio]* 38
'Differences' Discussed at Summit *[RFL]* 38
Karami on Peace Conference *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Reportage on Resolutions to Hostage Issue 39
Nasirite Head on German Hostages *[VOL]* 39
Hostage Issue Far From Resolved *[AFP]* 39
Israeli Offer Called 'Propaganda' *[VOL]* 39
Al-Musawi: U.S. Links Aid to Hostages *[VOL]* 39
Buwayz on Resolution 425, Palestinian Presence *[VOL]* 40
Junblatt 'Pessimistic' Over Talks With Israel *[VOL]* 40
Fadlallah Condemns 'Arab Capitulation' to Israel *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
Comments on U.S. 'Booby-Trapped Peace' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
Information Minister Denies Assassination Attempt *[VOL]* 41
UN Force Attacked From Israeli 'Security Zone' *[AFP]* 41
Israeli Armored Force Deploys in Jazzin *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Beirut Reports Israeli, Lahd Militia Activities *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Army Releases 26 Palestinians to National Front *[VOL]* 41

SYRIA

Al-Asad Discusses Peace Process, Conference *[SANA]* 42
Reportage on Lebanese President's Visit 50
Al-Asad Confers With al-Hirawi *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Presidents Discuss Regional Issues *[Damascus TV]* 50
Lebanese Delegation Departs *[SANA]* 50
TISHRIN Views Israeli Stand on Settlements *[Damascus Radio]* 50

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rebel Leader Says UN Plan Would Reward USSR *[AFP]* 51
Mojahedin Kill 38 Soldiers in Vardak Province *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Mojahedin Said To Tighten Grip on Herat *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Kabul Explosions Followed by Power Failures *[AFP]* 51
Rebels Claim Victory Over Rostaq *[AFP]* 51
Sources Report Najibollah Transfers Close Aide *[AFP]* 52
TV-Radio Journalists Society Elects Leaders *[Kabul Radio]* 52
Syrian Vice President's News Conference Reported *[Kabul Radio]* 52
Departs for Home *[BAKHTAR]* 54

Bangladesh

Japanese Firm Held Responsible for Accident *[Dhaka Radio]* 54
Further on 'Explosion' *[Tokyo KYODO]* 54
Labor Union Calls Off Transport Strike *[AFP]* 55
Constitutional Amendments Presented to Parliament *[Dhaka Radio]* 55
School Closed After Student Clashes; 100 Injured *[AFP]* 55

India

Minister Says 'Flexible' on Foreign Equity Limit *[AFP]* 56
Minister on Multinational Investment *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Maldivian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Solanki *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Sri Lankan Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Minister Says Pakistan Supporting Terrorists *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Reportage on Cauvery Water Dispute 57
Issue Discussed in Parliament *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Tamil Nadu Officials Comment *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Dispute To Be Heard by Court *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Tamil Nadu Delegation Meets President *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Jailed Militant Pleads for Hostage's Release *[AFP]* 59
Youth Congress-I General Secretary Released *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Explosion Kills 2 LTTE 'Militants' in Tamil Nadu *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Left Parties Against Economic Policies *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Singh's Plea To Quit Party Rejected *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Seven Militants Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Poll Candidate Abducted, 15 Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Forces Kill 14 Militants, Arrest 47 in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Up to 1 Million Tons of Coal To Be Exported *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Past Government Criticized on Temple Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Government Against Nonresidents' Hostile Takeovers *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Defense Minister Tells Troops To Be More Vigilant *[Delhi Radio]* 61

Iran

Karrubi Urges Expansion of Ties With France *[Tehran TV]* 61
Denies Talks With Reagan Campaign *[IRNA]* 61
Habibi Comments on Ties With Iraq, Refugees *[IRNA]* 62
Western Forces, Palestinian 'Compromise' Rejected *[Tehran TV]* 62
Papers Castigate Compromise With Israel *[IRNA]* 62
Paper Warns Against Factional 'Confrontation' *[IRNA]* 63
Daily Rebuts Nuclear Energy Program Allegations *[ABRAR 17 Jul]* 63
Majles Discusses Bill on Election Candidates *[Tehran TV]* 64
*Government Reportedly Turns to USSR For Arms *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Jul]* 64
Army Air Corps Commander Outlines Plans *[KEYHAN]* 65
Correction to Habibi News Conference 66

Pakistan

Reportage on Iranian Foreign Minister's Talks 66
Velayati Expects 'Good' Peace Talks *[AFP]* 66
Velayati Discusses Afghan Issue *[IRNA]* 67
Velayati Received Before Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 67
'Four-Sided' Talks on Afghan Issue 'Important' *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Alleged Indian Shelling Kills 5 in Azad Kashmir *[AFP]* 67
Qayyum Khan Elected Legislative Assembly Leader *[Islamabad International]* 68
Opposition Party Criticizes Nuclear Policy *[Delhi Radio]* 68
Finance Minister Denies BCCI Money Laundering *[AFP]* 68

Sri Lanka

Parliament Passes State of Emergency Extension *[LANKAPUVATH]* 68
Tamil Groups Hope Delhi Talks To End War *[Delhi Radio]* 68
Second LTTE Attack on Elephant Pass Repulsed *[LANKAPUVATH]* 69
Elephant Pass Final Push Begins *[LANKAPUVATH]* 69

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq 'Ready To Release All Kuwaiti Prisoners'

NC2807114391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, met here today with Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League. In a statement after the meeting, Najm said he had briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the condition of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. He asserted that Iraq is ready to release all Kuwaiti prisoners, adding that it has informed the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] of this intention.

Nabil Najm said he gave Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the information that the latter had requested concerning Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. He added that he told Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that his country is seriously cooperating with the ICRC in Baghdad. Najm noted that from March to 14 July, 6,333 Kuwaitis have been handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities.

The Iraqi envoy said that Iraq still has 3,400 Kuwaitis, all of whom have been registered with the ICRC for a long time, and added that the ICRC has adequate information about them. The Kuwaiti authorities, however, have only consented to receive 128 of them, Najm stated.

Najm said that Iraq awaits a signal from the Kuwaiti authorities, via the ICRC, to hand over the Kuwaitis who have been in Iraq since last August. Therefore, Kuwait has no right to say that Iraq is secretly detaining Kuwaitis, he concluded.

Arab Paper Criticizes U.S. Position on Jerusalem

PM2607155691 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 25 Jul 91 p 1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Jerusalem Curse"]

[Text] It seems that an Israeli reply to Baker's peace proposals is imminent because Israel sees before it a historic opportunity in the acceptance by the Arabs—or by the past extremists among them—of all its conditions for a settlement, from direct negotiations through the laying down of the economic boycott weapon, and in the relinquishment of previous fixed principles such as the legitimate Palestinian representation.

But what draws the attention—our attention, at least—is the suspicious Arab silence about the Jerusalem question and its future in any new political settlement. We have not yet heard any statement by any senior or middle-ranking Arab official emphasizing the need for the return of occupied Jerusalem and its holy places to Arab sovereignty, despite the fact that Yitzhaq Shamir has spared no effort in setting every impossible condition and has demanded that the Arabs accept them before he can display any flexibility toward the U.S. proposals. When he found that the Arabs were not objecting and were affected by the infinite flexibility disease, he stepped up his conditions.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is fully aware of how sensitive an issue the holy city's status is for Arab Muslims and Christians and Jews, which is why he preferred to dishonestly put it aside to start with because he realizes—and he is the expert—that to stir up this issue could spoil the U.S. aim of holding the "peace conference," which has become an objective in itself, whereas it was originally a way to reach a settlement.

It is sad that those who said that they wanted to pray in Jerusalem and who called for a jihad to liberate it are now ignoring this sacred Islamic duty, preferring to pray in any capital—European or other—or in the nearest mosque. All we fear is that they may indeed pray in al-Aqsa Mosque—but in the same way as the late President Anwar al-Sadat did; that is, under Israeli spears.

The peace to which the Arab nation aspires is based on dignity and liberates the holy places, otherwise it would be an imposed and unacceptable peace, and the Jerusalem curse would continue to pursue all those who accept it, and also their descendants and relatives.

We are indeed aware of the surrounding objective conditions being experienced by the Arabs, and we know full well how strong the U.S. grip on the world is. We also know for certain that the military option is now all but nonexistent at this stage after the destruction of Iraq, the Soviet Union's deviation to the West, the socialist bloc's breakup, and the end of the East-West conflict.

This awareness does not mean that we should go to extremes when making concessions or that we should accept just any kind of peace. If the settlement is unsatisfactory, it can be delayed, and there will be no harm if the state of neither peace nor war continues for several more years until better—or at least less bad—conditions exist.

The ghoul of settlement has actually swallowed up the occupied Arab territories and less than half of the West Bank is left. We do not believe that 12 percent of Palestine deserves all these concessions, especially since it will be without Jerusalem.

Hitherto Shamir—with support from Baker and the approval of some Arabs—has refused to sit down at the negotiating table with one of Jerusalem's sons. So if this is the beginning, the results can never be auspicious.

Many people—not including us—have started praying for the sole of the late Anwar al-Sadat since he was at least 15 years ahead of the other Arab leaders: He fought in 1973 and then entered the peace game in his own way and paid the price; and yet some people now are accepting less than al-Sadat accepted and are trying to be like him. There is absolutely no question of the copy being like the original.

The boycotting of the isolated Camp David solutions—which did not realize the Arabs' demands for a just peace—was launched from Baghdad. This is why it was necessary to destroy Baghdad and its military and economic capabilities so as to bring the Arabs to their knees and to ensure that unjust solutions would prevail.

Without Jerusalem there will be no justice, and a peace not based on justice is merely a temporary truce that will collapse with the collapse of the conditions that brought it about.

While history glorifies Saladin for returning Jerusalem to the Muslims and the Arabs, history will be merciless with any Arab leader who abandons it—that is, if his people and nation show him any mercy.

'Amended Text' of Damascus Declaration Published

PM2907085491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 91 p 3

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Damascus Declaration; Amended Text"]

[Text] Riyadh—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the text of the amendment to the Damascus Declaration agreed by the foreign ministers of the six GCC countries, Egypt, and Syria at their 15 July meeting in Kuwait. The following is the final amended text of the declaration:

Out of sentiments of fraternity and solidarity cemented by a rich heritage of mutual support, cohesion, joint struggle, and a deep sense of common aspirations and challenges, identical objectives, and common fate;

in consolidation of their ability to shoulder their pan-Arab responsibilities in advancing the Arab nation, serving its causes, maintaining its security, and promoting its common interests;

out of a strong adherence to the aims and principles stipulated in the charters and resolutions of the Arab League the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations;

recognizing the current international changes which have confronted the Arab nation with considerable challenges which must be met with the highest degree of cooperation and coordination among the Arab states;

while reaffirming their position rejecting the aggressive approach and the alignment with such an approach—as in the case of the Iraqi regular forces' aggression against, and occupation of, the state of Kuwait, in flagrant violation of all established Arab, Islamic, and international laws and traditions, destroying many concepts and accomplishments of joint Arab action at a time when, more than ever before, the Arab nation needed solidarity and the mobilization of resources to ward off numerous unprecedented dangers;

while welcoming the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate authority, while expressing deep pain and sorrow for what the fraternal Kuwaiti people were subjected to as a result of the Iraqi regime's agression, while deeply regretting the ugliest forms of suffering endured by the Iraqi people as a result of the Iraqi leadership's disregard for their interests, and while expressing support for the Iraqi people in their plight and full concern for Iraq's territorial integrity and regional security;

the GCC Arab member states, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Syrian Arab Republic—the participants at the Damascus meeting held from 5 to 6 March 1991—reaffirm their determination to strive to impart a new spirit to joint Arab action and to establish fraternal cooperation among members of the Arab family on firm foundations based on the following principles:

I— Principles of coordination and cooperation:

Coordination and cooperation will be based on the following foundations:

1. Work in accordance with the Arab League Charter, the UN Charter, and other Arab and international charters, based on respect for and the consolidation of historic and fraternal links; good neighborly relations; and a commitment to and respect for territorial integrity and regional safety, equal sovereignty, the inadmissibility of the forcible seizure of territory, noninterference in internal affairs, and commitment to the settlement of disputes peacefully.

2. Work to build a new Arab order to strengthen joint Arab action, considering the arrangements agreed upon by the participants as the basis for fulfilling that objective, leaving the way open for other Arab states to join this declaration in light of common interests and objectives.

3. Work to enable the Arab nation to direct its resources toward meeting the challenges facing stability and security in the region and toward promoting a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question on the basis of the UN charter and relevant resolutions.

4. Strengthening economic cooperation among the participants with the aim of achieving an economic grouping designed to promote economic and social development.

5. Respect for the principle of sovereignty for each Arab state over its natural and economic resources.

II—The aims of coordination and cooperation:

1. In the political and security fields:

A) The participants believe that the current phase, coming after the liberation of Kuwait from the occupation of the Iraqi regime's forces, provides the best conditions for meeting other challenges and threats to the region. Foremost among these challenges is the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territory and the

settlement of Jews there. The participants believe that an international conference under UN supervision would be an appropriate framework for ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territory and securing the Palestinian people's national rights on the basis of relevant UN resolutions.

B) The participants reaffirm their respect for the principles of the Arab League charter, their commitment to the Arab League member states' joint defense and economic cooperation treaty, and their determination to work jointly to guarantee the Arab states' security and safety. With particular reference to article nine of the Arab League charter, they consider the action of the Egyptian and Syrian forces during the Gulf crisis, in providing support for the forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other GCC states in liberating Kuwait and defending themselves against aggression, to be an exemplary implementation of the Arab League member states' joint defense and economic cooperation treaty and a basis for effective Arab security cooperation. In this regard, any of the GCC states is entitled to seek the assistance of Egyptian and Syrian forces on its territory if it so wishes.

Accordingly, the states concerned with this declaration will seek to draw up an integrated protocol within the context of the Arab states' mutual commitments and to deposit it with the Arab League. This protocol will be a practical program for safeguarding the Arab states' security and safety and a model of comprehensive Arab security and of an Arab defense system. The participants also emphasize that cooperation and coordination among them will not be directed against any other party.

C) The participants will endeavor to make the Middle East an area free from all weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and will seek to achieve this through the international organs concerned.

2. In the economic and cultural field:

In harmony with the Arab League Charter, the Arab League states' joint defense and economic cooperation treaty, and other Arab joint action agreements, the participants will seek to:

A) Strengthen the foundations of economic cooperation among the founding members, as a first step to be built upon with other Arab states to increase the fields and scope of cooperation.

B) Draw up economic policies to ensure balanced economic and social development to pave the way for an Arab economic grouping to meet the challenges and keep pace with the developments resulting from the creation of major economic groupings in the world.

C) Encourage the private sector in the Arab states to take part in the economic and social development process, which includes bolstering ties between Arab chambers of commerce, industry, and agriculture, and granting scope for small and medium enterprises to benefit easily and tangibly from the fruits of joint cooperation.

D) Support the role of the scientific research centers and facilitate contacts among them to enable them to engage in joint research to achieve integration in various fields.

E) Exploit the human expertise and resources in the fields of cultural and informational exchanges, with due respect to participant states and noninterference in their internal affairs.

3. In the field of joint Arab action institutions:

Support for the Arab League and resistance to all attempts to weaken or fragment it; a reaffirmation of the commitment to, and insistence on, the aims and principles of the Arab League charter with the possibility of reforming it through the addition of appendices based on benefits resulting from the work of the committee responsible for amending the charter, including the introduction of a method for settling disputes.

III—The organizational framework of coordination and cooperation:

Coordination and cooperation among the founding parties for the fulfillment of the stated objectives will proceed through meetings hosted successively by each of the participant states at foreign minister level. The help of experts and specialists will be sought to study aspects of cooperation with a view to reaching a new contractual formula for Arab cooperation to be applied by them and open to all the Arab states.

IV—General provisions:

This declaration was initialed in Damascus in eight original Arabic drafts of equal authority on 6 March 1991. This declaration will take effect on its ratification. The ratification documents will be lodged with the Syrian Arab Republic's Foreign Ministry.

Palestinian Affairs

USSR's Bessmertnykh Sends Message to 'Arafat

JN2807163791 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has received an important message from Comrade Bessmertnykh, USSR foreign minister. The message was delivered to brother Abu-'Ammar by Soviet Ambassador to Tunisia Boris Shiborin during their meeting yesterday afternoon.

The two discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question and the efforts under way to find a just and comprehensive solution to this question that takes into

consideration the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat Sends Messages to Gorbachev, Bessmertnykh

LD2807183091 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has sent an important message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, relating to the stands of the PLO on the developments of the ongoing political process in the region. The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar handed the message to the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia when he received him today. This message comes on the eve of the summit which will take place in Moscow between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush. The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar also sent an important message to Mr. Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, in reply to his important message which brother Abu-'Ammar received yesterday.

Al-Husayni Views French, U.S. Roles in Talks

LD2607202291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Meetings of the Palestinian leadership, which began yesterday under the chairmanship of the brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, continue in the Tunisian capital discussing all the developments in the Arab and international arenas given the ongoing political moves in the region. Radio correspondents in the Tunisian capital report that the Palestinian leadership's meetings assume great importance and will culminate with a political statement.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni has announced that the issue of Palestinian representation in any peace negotiations, the issue of East Jerusalem, and the issue of not bypassing the PLO are red lines which cannot be crossed as far as the Palestinians are concerned. This came in an interview with the Lebanese AL-SAFIR.

In reply to a question on the talks he held with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, al-Husayni said: We asked the Americans to confirm clearly and candidly the principles they have persistently declared regarding Jerusalem, that it is a part of the occupied territories. There are points of difference for which the Americans can find a formula, but there is a kind of retreat in the U.S. stance which had been adopted, and which was included in the five-point plan of Secretary Baker. Thus far, the Americans have not said categorically that they are against the presence of anyone from East Jerusalem, but they have informed us that Israel will view that as a pretext for not going to the talks.

On his talks in France, al-Husayni said: The French view our demands as logical, sane, and just. France is interested in having a role in the issue. We wanted to put them completely in the picture so they can push the European stance forward and exercise some pressure on the United States to deal with the issue more forcefully.

On the U.S. perception of the Palestinian delegation that will take part in the talks, he said: Their perception is that it will be within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will include Palestinians from within and abroad who will be Palestinians or Jordanians carrying Jordanian passports, providing that they are not members of the PLO or the Jordanian Government.

On his expectations regarding the peace process, brother Faysal al-Husayni said: The Gulf war and its results have put the Palestinians in the dock and have made Israel the prosecutor and the United States the judge. At least this process will take the Palestinians out of the dock and put the Israelis there in their place. Maybe the judge will remain a judge, but from now on he will not be able to deal with us as the accused.

UK, Sweden Roles Viewed

LD2607202991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Member of the Fatah movement's Central Committee, Abu- 'ala' [Ahmad Quray'], held a series of important meetings in the British capital, London, with senior officials of the foreign and international cooperation ministries. Latest developments and political initiatives in the region as well as the difficult economic, social, and human conditions which our people are experiencing under occupation were discussed. Brother Abu-'ala' affirmed the PLO's commitment to the political program that was endorsed by the Palestine National Council in 1988.

On Thursday a PLO spokesman said that Sweden and the PLO were intending to hold high-level talks today on Palestinian representation at the Middle East peace talks. Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson has invited the prominent Palestinian, Faysal Al-Husayni, and Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the brother president Abu-'ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], to meet him today in Stockholm. A Swedish Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that these talks were a part of Sweden's diplomatic contacts with the PLO and the other parties in an effort to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Spokesman on 'Great Interest' in Bush's Appeal

LD2607221991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman in Tunis today stated that the Palestinian leadership has received with great interest the appeal which the U.S. President addressed to the Palestinians and the Israelis to take part in the current political process in the Middle East. The

Palestinian spokesman called for some clarity, guarantees, and political commitment in the peace process currently under way to reassure the Palestinian people about their fate, their rights, and their future.

The Palestinian spokesman also referred to the current attempt aimed at leaving out the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO and said: The only thing we see in what is proposed to us is to voluntarily accept our absence, the absence of our rights, and the absence of a commitment to withdraw from our land.

Further on Spokesman's Statements

LD2707000791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Palestinian spokesman said,i n a statement reported by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, that the Palestinian people are not asking for more than equal treatment with the other peoples and are asking for the right to exercise their role and right as one people. They are also only asking that no one try to tear them apart and divide them and that the rights guaranteed by the international charters, the legality of human rights, the UN Charter, and the U.S. Constitution itself—which states that all human beings are free and equal without distinction and with equal rights—be recognized.

The Palestinian spokesman also welcomed what he described as the positive U.S. statements and the principles for a just settlement which President George Bush announced in his address before Congress on 9 March, indicating that these principles stipulate a withdrawal from the occupied territories, an exchange of land for peace, the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, and the adoption of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for a settlement and a guarantee for the security of all the states of the region. [passage omitted]

The PLO spokesman also talked about the status of Jerusalem in the peace process and pointed out that no Palestinian can imagine for one moment that the holy al-Quds, symbol of their faith and the birth and death place of their prophets, has been left out, Judaised, and annexed.

Al-Surani Urges PLO Invitation to Conference

NC2907133291 Paris AFP in English 1311 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, July 29 (AFP)—A top Palestine Liberation Organization official called on the United States Monday to invite the PLO to a peace conference, accusing Washington of seeking to liquidate the Palestinian issue by ignoring his organization.

"If the current peace efforts aim at a serious solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, an official written invitation must be addressed by the United States and the Soviet Union to the (PLO) as one of the main parties concerned by this conflict," PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani said.

"If not, it will not be about finding a solution to the Palestinian cause, which constitutes the essence of the conflict, but about liquidating it, which means there will be other Camp Davids with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon," he said.

The 1979 Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel were protested by Arabs who said it failed to address the Palestinian and other issues.

Mr. al-Surani's comments to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE came as U.S. President George Bush left for Moscow to attend a summit in which the Middle East issue was expected to dominate the agenda.

Mr. al-Surani also said the PLO feels that the "establishment of a Palestinian state must precede a confederation with Jordan."

"By ignoring the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and by refusing to deal with it, the United States seeks to draw a line through the Palestinian people, its right to self-determination and to an independent state, and all of that in one blow," Mr. al-Surani said.

Washington cut official contact with the PLO in June 1990 after the PLO refused to condemn a failed terrorist attack on Israel.

The organization has become increasingly isolated since it backed Iraq after the August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

On French television Sunday, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat questioned the U.S. Administration's real intentions regarding a Middle East peace conference.

"We want to know if the Americans really intend to find a long-term solution or whether they are using the peace process for domestic reasons, particularly electoral ones, or to strengthen the Likud (bloc) in Israel," Mr. 'Arafat said.

"What we want is a real and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," he said in a televised interview from Tunis.

"It is true that the Europeans advise us to agree to participate in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," he said.

"But those who have asked for the holding of a peace conference are the Americans, and if the Americans also want the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, they should come directly and discuss it with us," he said.

Qaddumi on Representation, 'Deceptive' U.S. Policy

JN2707082491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jul 91 pp 1, 16

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] As Palestinian leaders continue to meet under Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO chief, Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department, has declared that the PLO will not relinquish the right to appoint and announce the Palestinian delegation to a peace conference.

In an exclusive telephone statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Faruq Qaddumi said that the key issue is the content of the conference and the guarantees to be provided to achieve a just, comprehensive peace based on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and removal of settlements from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He noted that it is the PLO's right to appoint and announce a Palestinian delegation. He said: We must not be lax about such an issue. We are not ready to pay the Gulf war bill. He added: Our people are strong and our relations with our brothers in Jordan are distinguished. In fact, we are one people, but the target of the plot is the PLO. It is a U.S. and Israeli objective to strike at the PLO and Palestinian representation. We should adopt a clear stand on these issues. Our people and nation are ready to continue the struggle for decades without making any concession. Victory will eventually be ours.

The PLO Political Department head said: We must understand well that Palestinian representation is a fundamental issue and the PLO is entitled to choose the delegation. We will not go into detail because the objective is to move the dispute to the Arab side. He continued: When we receive verified guarantees about a comprehensive withdrawal, the return of Jerusalem, Palestinian sovereignty over the land, the right to self-determination, and the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation, everything will be easy. The Palestine National Council has made a decision about confederation with sisterly Jordan. Hence, we must avoid talking about differences among us. Arrogant Shamir does not want peace; he wants an Arab surrender and a normalization of Arab-Israeli relations.

Abu-al-Lutf said: Shamir wants more territorial concessions, but we will offer none. Palestinian representation has for decades been a target of Shamir and Zionist leaders. This is what prompted us in 1974 to list the Palestine question on the UN agenda as an independent issue, beside which we listed the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The Palestinian official stressed that when the United States raises such issues, it does not reflect goodwill. Rather, it is aimed at arousing differences among brothers.

Abu-al-Lutf declared that the PLO does not trust American policy, which he described as deceptive. He noted that Baker's proposals had been rejected by Shamir, who also rejected the Jordanian- Palestinian agreement.

In the same context, Abu-al-Lutf said: Dayan rejected the U.S.- Soviet declaration of 1971 an hour after it was issued. They also deceived the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in 1967 when th.y told him that there were two different versions—one in English and the other in French—of Resolution 242. 'Abd-al-Nasir was also deceived by former President Johnson when he asked him to send him an envoy in the morning, but in the morning Dayan's warplanes were bombarding Egyptian airfields. May God's mercy be upon 'Abd-al- Nasir; he was our teacher and we learned from his experiences.

Qaddumi said: We must not have goodwill toward someone who antagonizes us; America stood against the Palestinian initiative of 1988 and formulated the Shamir initiative and told him that it would adopt it. Therefore, we said that we had to clearly and explicitly stress independent Palestinian representation as understood by the PLO.

Comments on Appointing Delegation

LD2807190191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the PLO will not relinquish its right to appoint the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference. He described U.S. policy as deceitful, asserting that U.S. and Israeli goals are to deal a blow to the PLO and to Palestinian representation.

Brother Abu-Lutf said that the fundamental issue is the content of the conference and the guarantees that will be given on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and the removal of the Israeli settlements from the occupied Palestinian bank and the Gaza Strip.

Spokesman Spells Out Position on Peace Process

JN2707180991 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has stated:

The Palestinian leadership yesterday received with real interest President Bush's call for Palestinians and Israelis to join the ongoing political process. The PLO Executive Committee would like to stress that our Palestinian people are the party most willing to see peace efforts succeed, given the agony of generations of Palestinians and the historic injustice of having been denied their most fundamental rights, the foremost of which is the right to freedom and self-determination, and in light of the oppression, torture, famine, massacres, and theft and settlement of their homeland by Israeli occupation. Our people want the same rights enjoyed by other peoples, namely that they be able to exercise their role as a united people and that no one split and divide them. Our people

want their rights to be recognized—the rights guaranteed by international conventions, human rights, and the UN Charter. These were expressed by the U.S. Constitution that decrees that all people are free and enjoy equal rights without discrimination.

Led by the PLO, our people welcome the positive American pronouncements, most of all President Bush's statement before Congress on 6 March, 1991, which outlines the principles for a fair settlement and calls for withdrawal from the occupied land, trading of territory for peace, legitimate political rights for the Palestinian people, and adopting Resolutions 242 and 338 as the foundations of a settlement, as well as safeguarding the security of all states. These are the very principles that our people want to see as a true international commitment to guide the peace process.

Our Palestinian people want to see the ongoing political process with enough clarity, guarantees, and political commitment so as to be assured of their fate, rights, and future at a time Israel is receiving guarantees that are in letter and spirit contrary to the principles outlined by the U.S. President to the Congress and in conflict with the UN resolutions. Given the offers made to us, we have no choice but to voluntarily accept our absence and the absence of our rights and the absence of a commitment to withdrawal from our land. The presence of all these guarantees will make it easier for our people and their leadership to adopt the right stand for the process of a political settlement.

Our people extend their hand to a just peace. They wish to see others taking an advanced position in the interest of forging a fair peace based on legitimacy and UN resolutions. No Palestinian can for one moment conceive of Jerusalem—the symbol of his faith and the cradle of his prophets and their departure point to heaven—being [word indistinct] and Judaized and annexed. Neither can any Palestinian stand to see his basic national rights being ignored—especially the right of self-determination—or concede the necessity of total withdrawal from their land and Islamic and Christian sanctities.

We reiterate our true desire to support the march for peace. Since the 1988 Palestinian peace initiative, followed by a Palestinian-American dialogue, we have responded to every proposal and constructive initiative seeking a just settlement in the region in order to advance international security and the peace march. We are prepared to enter into a serious and immediate dialogue in the interest of finding the best means to realize this [word indistinct] peace.

Popular Groups Condemn Arab 'Concessions'

JN2707112991 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] The Palestinian popular organizations have strongly attacked some Arab parties for making concession after concession under the pretense of showing goodwill to give a momentum to the so-called peace march led by the United States these days. This came in a statement issued by these organizations on 24 July at the conclusion of meetings held by their representatives to study the political situation in the region in light of U.S. moves and Secretary of State James Baker's tour.

The statement says that these generous concessions will make the Zionists more stubborn. The statement describes Baker's peace plan as complete and comprehensive capitulation to world Zionism and its aggressive base, Israel. The statement says that bypassing the rights of our Palestinian people, recognized by the resolutions of international legitimacy over the past 50 years, is the blatant name for the disgraceful and baseless capitulation of some official Arab parties to Zionism.

After noting that the conflict with the Zionist enemy is not over the Sinai, the Golan, the underground water, or an end to the state of war and the Arab economic boycott of the Zionist entity, the statement asserts that the occupation of these Arab territories and the ensuing effects are themselves the result of the comprehensive aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. The aggression was demonstrated in 1948 with the establishment of the Zionist entity on the ruins of the people, the land, and the state of Palestine.

The statement adds that the capitulation to the Zionist entity by some official Arab parties means that they have rid themselves of the Palestine question and allowed Zionism to usurp Palestine and devour Jerusalem and that they have turned the Arab capitals into a ranch for world Zionism.

The statement questions the logic by which Arabs can end the boycott of the Zionist entity while 3 million Palestinians are under occupation and dying every day and while 3 million others are living in the diaspora and are being tortured and coerced by some Arab regimes only because they refused to bow to Zionism and its advocates and because they are determined to resist all forms of concession, plotting, and treason and to continue the struggle to seize the legitimate and national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The statement asserts that some Arab regimes have abandoned the Palestinian people and Jerusalem and are now ignoring the Arab summit resolutions recognizing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. These Arab regimes, the statement adds, are also standing against the establishment of the independent Palestinian state whose banner is raised by the PLO and for whose sake thousands of Palestinians and Arabs sacrificed their blood.

The statement asks: Is not abandoning the Palestinian people while facing the flood of Zionist immigration the gravest act of treason? Is not ending the state of war and the Arab boycott of Israel at a time when Sharon declares that settlement activity will continue for hundreds of years a practical translation of Arab capitulation to Zionism and America under the banner of peace in the

Middle East? After asking more questions, the statement notes that Jerusalem, the symbol of Arabism and Islam, finds no one to defend its Arabism and Islam. Rather, it finds brokers who sell the Arab nation's right in Palestine in return for a handful of U.S. dollars. Where are those who declared themselves the defenders of the holy mosque, the al-Aqsa mosque, and holy Jerusalem? Where are the successive Arab summit resolutions that said the Arab states supported the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and independence?

The statement adds: Official treason is now showing very clearly following the recent grave events in the region which will be recorded by history as not being in the interest of any Arab side, but as a victory for Zionism against the nation. The appeasement of America proves that British influence and colonialism have been replaced by American influence and colonialism.

Addressing certain parties, the statement says: Your hand off Palestine. You have no right to control the Palestinian fate. We will not be indifferent to this humiliating capitulation to the Zionist and American enemies of the nation. The nation will not be long indifferent to this treason. The road to a just, durable peace takes in the maintenance and preservation of the Palestinian people's rights and the restoral of Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa mosque.

The statement explains that what is going on now is not a peace, but a capitulation and a treason under the banner of peace. It stresses that the nation will not accept it and that the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land are unified under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. They will declare a fierce war against the brokers who give up Palestine, sell out Jerusalem, and go against the PLO and its leaders.

Concluding, the statement stresses the constants of Palestinian peace. It says: We declare clearly and explicitly that there will be no peace without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital under the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is the oath our masses have taken and this is our pledge to the nation. Victory for the masses. Shame on all the traitors, the agents of Zionism and imperialism.

Commentary Lambasts Arab Concessions to Israel

LD2607223191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] What are the Arabs offering Zionist Israel for it to be satisfied with a beginning that would be a basis for a preliminary dialogue on the convening of a peace conference? No Israeli condition has remained that has not been fulfilled or taken into consideration. [passage omitted]

Now Israeli demands have not ended, and it has still not agreed to the preliminary steps for convening a conference, nor will it agree tomorrow. After extracting the card for ending the boycott without handing over the colonization card, the Israelis are demanding the emigration of Syrian Jews to occupied Palestine to establish other settlements for them. Perhaps they will demand that the Arabs should demonstrate their goodwill and agree to send excavation teams to look for the third temple below the al-Aqsa' Mosque, and the same teams will demolish the mosque to build the temple—all that to demonstrate goodwill and to provide the Israelis with the right basis for a preliminary dialogue on the regional peace conference. We do not know the extent to which Arab concessions, submission, and surrender will reach. We do not know what are the cards which the Arabs possess to negotiate with during the American conference, when they are agreeing to everything providing Israeli deigns to agree to the convening of the conference. We do not know why the Arab regime believes that it deputizes for the Palestinians and that recording the approval of some Palestinians who are in the bossom of that regime can constitute a lever to go a long way in renouncing the Palestine issue, in addition to the Islamic and Christian sanctities and Holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

The current political climate resembles the political climate in 1948, if not worse and more humiliating. Here are the well known symbols of the Arab regime getting together and concentrating their strength to hand over Jerusalem, liquidate the Palestine issue, and get rid of the heavy Palestinian cross which they are incapable of accomplishing. These are not climates which are signaling a military war, which have escaped the attention of Arab public opinion, bu. they are warnings of a political play in which the military generals who triumphed on stage in 1948 and brought us defeat and humiliation on earth appear as victors but in civilian clothes this time.

The affair will not continue in this way and the play will not be repeated even if the clothes and appearances change. The Palestinian people, their intifadah and revolution, under the leadership of the PLO, will not view their fate through this scenario. We will fight with the same determination and persistence, and there will not be peace over Jerusalem and the sanctities.

Commentary Notes 'Painful' Arab Reality

LD2707205491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers: Anyone who can see and who is reasonable must know that the current era is the era of negotiations, and any reasonable, eligible person must also know that the negotiations in question are crippled and one-eyed and that their outcome will be a true reflection of the existing balances of power. Regrettably

the balances of power are tragically in favor of Israel first, in favor of Israel second, and in favor of Israel third. Therefore, the expected solutions will be neither national authority nor an armed authority as was talked about in the mid-seventies nor an independent state nor an advanced autonomy. They will be, at best, a feeble administrative rule to the population and not to the land. Namely the Palestinians in their land will be granted some human and cultural rights usually granted to a country's foreign minorities.

To make the picture clearer we have to point out that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not make his five tours of the region and his upcoming sixth feeling humble and feeble while the Arabs stood high on their toes in victory and rejoicing. Rather he came to us while were in an unenviable state of affairs. Iraq, the rock on which we were resting, has received a mortal blow that has excluded it from the circle of influence in the Middle East crisis. The states which we were counting on for their Arabism and the unlikelihood of them crossing the red lines have surprised us as we did not think that matters would slide so low. As for the rest of the Arab states, they are either frightened of their shadow, preoccupied with their domestic problems, or are those which the Gulf crisis has taken out of their Arab skin. They feel now their existence is linked to the existence of Israel and the continuation of the United States as the only powerful and capable state in this world. This is the painful reality which we are living through. It is a reality that shames our ancestors in their graves and will bring shame on our offspring for generations to come.

Therefore, the scenario which will begin a few days from now will be as follows: The Soviet Union and the United States will jointly extend an invitation to attend a conference to solve the Middle East crisis which will not include the PLO. This invitation will be extended exclusively to Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Israel along the line of the famous Mina House conference in Cairo. The two hosts will say: Whoever wants to attend may attend and whoever denies the invitation, the fault will be his and he should bear all the consequences. Certainly the response will be strong from Syria and Egypt being two brave parties, and those who had the courage to wage the liberation war of Hafr al-Batin will not hesitate to attend this conference which represents the end result of this war. The Israeli attendance being a foregone conclusion, attention will be focused on Jordan: Will Jordan be able to refuse to attend? Has it the capabilities for such a refusal and to resist the challenges facing it? It is easy to say that Jordan is incapable of swimming against the current even for a single moment. [passage omitted]

Therefore, whoever wants to discuss the Palestinian question has to approach the Palestinian people, its entity, and its state.

PLO's Salah on Palestinians' Rights in Lebanon

NC2607125291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Leading PLO political official Salah Salah has expressed his fear that there is no real intention to hold a dialogue between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinian side on the Palestinian people's civil and social rights in Lebanon. He denied that the PLO has been asked to prepare a memorandum on this issue and indicated that the Palestinian groups take a more comprehensive approach to this issue.

Salah said that the civil and social rights cannot be separated from the other aspects of the Palestinians' political presence in Lebanon. He revealed that arrangements had been made for the Palestinian delegation that visited Syria recently to visit Beirut also, but the visit was canceled at the Lebanese Government's request.

Salah expressed the hope that all manifestations of the military presence around the camps will be removed so that a new chapter of relations may be opened on the basis of resistance to the Israeli occupation.

DFLP Claims Responsibility for 25 Jul Attack

JN2707083491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—Exclusive—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's [DFLP's] support forces in the occupied territories have claimed responsibility for the fedayeen attack carried out by the martyr Khalid Nazzal Sabah group on 25 July in the Brazil neighborhood of southern Rafah. The group directed a barrage of machine gun fire at an Israeli patrol commanded by a senior Israeli intelligence officer. All members of the patrol were directly hit. As the group withdrew from the scene of the operation, it hurled a hand grenade at the patrol. The group returned safely to base.

Algeria

Results Reported as FIS Conference Concludes

LD2607132791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] A few minutes ago we received a report from our colleague Mohcen Slimani Karim, who is in Batna to cover the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] conference. It was impossible, however, to broadcast it due to poor reception. Mohcen Slimani said:

The proceedings of the first conference of the FIS Consultative Council and the heads of its executive bureaus concluded this morning. The statement of the meeting, which was read out by one of the members of the executive bureau in Batna, reported the following results:

1. Cheikh Abassi Madani is confirmed in his position as chairman of the FIS, and Ali Belhadj as his deputy.

2. Mohamed Said's membership in the Consultative Council is confirmed.

3. Freezing the membership of the following names in the Consultative Council until the convening of the FIS congress: Hachemi Sahnouni, Azzouz Zebda, Mohamed Kerrar, Said Mekhloufi, and another name.

4. Forming an inquiry committee which is to investigate first with all the members of the national Consultative Council and also with the heads of the executive bureaus.

5. Reinforcing the meeting with twelve members representing the various governorates; and the Consultative Council will be extended to include, in two weeks, new members who are competent and whose allegiance to the FIS is proven.

Another FIS Member Suspended

LD2607210791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] According to APS, the final session of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] national meeting, which brought together the FIS leadership, was characterized by the announcement of resolutions, proposals, and decisions reached by the enlarged FIS Consultative Council which included representatives from 45 governorates.

The resolution on organization, which was adopted at the end of the two-day closed meeting at El-Widad movie theater in Batna, stipulated that the membership in the Consultative Council of Hachemi Sahnouni, Benazouz Zebda, Mohamed Karrar, Said Makhloufi, and Kemreddine Karbani has been suspended until the holding of the next FIS congress. The same resolution pointed out that 12 new members, including Mohamed Said, have joined the Consultative Council. It added that the meeting did not consider the appointment of an acting FIS spokesman. On the other hand, the political resolution affirmed the need to continue efforts to establish an Islamic state.

Finally, it is noteworthy to mention that except for Mr. Hachemi's hint on Thursday to the national press on the possibility of FIS participation in the meeting, scheduled to take place next week between the government and political parties, no other information about the official and final stance of the FIS has been leaked.

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Saddam Message

JN2807131391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Algiers, 28 Jul (INA)—Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade and personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, arrived in Algiers this morning.

Dr. Salih is carrying an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to President Chadli Bendjedid on areas of brotherly cooperation between Iraq and Algeria as well as the exchange of views on a number of issues of common interest.

Received by President

LD2807142691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Republic President Chadli Bendjedid received at the headquarters of the Presidency at noon today Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi minister of trade and special envoy of President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Briefed on Preparations for Dialogue Talks

LD2607204891 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met yesterday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali and examined a number of topics, the first of which dealt with the draft complementary budget bill for 1991. The Council of Ministers amended it in such a way as to enable it to meet the financial consequences resulting from decisions taken in the spheres of salaries, social security, and price stabilization. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the Council of Ministers was briefed on preparations under way for the meeting with political societies, scheduled for 30 and 31 July, with the attendance of mass societies and mass organizations, aimed at drawing up mechanisms for dialogue and consultation between the government and the parties.

49 Parties To Participate in Government Meeting

LD2807135591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Forty-nine parties have confirmed that they will participate in the meeting between the government and the national political parties on 30 and 31 July. The Socialist Vanguard Party, however, refused to participate. The Islamic Salvation Front is expected to announce its participation or nonparticipation tomorrow.

We received a statement today from the Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, in which it affirms that consultation is from Islam, and if anyone rejects it for some consideration, so be it. It also recalls that some conditions must be fulfilled if this meeting is to be successful; among these are psychological and security preparedness from all parties and the non-marginalization of any influential quarter, whether it is a party or group of individuals.

FLN Aide on Recent Central Committee Session

LD2707141491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee, this morning held a news conference, the details of which we will follow with radio correspondent Mohamed Halloub:

[Halloub] The news conference held this morning by Abdelhamid Mehri at Palais Zighout Youcef came, as he said, in reply to media questions on the recent ordinary session of the Central Committee, which, as commonly known, was held in camera and greatly raised the interest of the media.

Abdelhamid Mehri did not make an introductory statement at the news conference, which is the normal practice. He said the aim of the conference was not to present a political statement but to reply to questions and interpretations that emerged after the extraordinary and ordinary sessions of the Central Committee. These two sessions did not come out with the same perception of the FLN's political activity, in view of the dominance of the issues pertaining to the party's constitution and the election of the secretary general and the Political Bureau. The procedural issues were regarded by Abdelhamid Mehri as premature, and, he said: Some of their results led to distancing us from discussing the essential issues, such as reforms—so that we could know exactly who supports them and who does not. Other essential issues, whether concerning the party itself or the progress of affairs in the country, were not submitted for serious discussion either. He said: I would have preferred it if the differences were on political issues; it is regrettable that procedural matters dominate every time. It is common knowledge that behind procedural debates lie background issues and trends, he said.

Regarding the resignation of the president from the party leadership, Mehri pointed out that the Central Committee had been informed, and it now remained for the conference to make a decision on the issue.

Regarding the FLN's stance vis-a-vis the two electoral laws, the party secretary general stressed that the two laws did not define the people's preferences nor did they impose success or failure on any political trend, but it was essential to safeguard the authorities of the concerned institution—and here he meant the National People's Assembly, which is an institution with authorities, regardless of the affiliations of its members. The solution must stem from that legitimacy, even though it may be inadequate, he pointed out.

Regarding the resignation of Justice Minister Ali Benflis, Mehri pointed out that it had nothing to do with party decisions.

There remains for us to point out that the FLN plans to pursue a new method in dealing with the media; namely, adopting specific journalists who will be dealt with permanently.

The news conference is still continuing.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Visit to Europe

NC2607201991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2011 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] We learned a few moments ago that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has returned safely to the homeland from France.

Leaders, Press Comment on Upcoming Visit by Levi

Foreign Minister on Visit

NC2607124091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to Egypt, which begins 29 July, falls within the framework of Egypt's moves to give impetus to the peace process. He said that the talks will allow Israel and Egypt to exchange views on the coming stage.

'Amr Musa stressed that Egypt's stand rejecting a continuation of the status quo is clear, as is its position on the importance of the peace process and the blame that must be attached to whoever obstructs it. He said that Egypt believes in the need to take measures to create the proper atmosphere for starting the negotiations process by halting settlement building and by improving the treatment of the inhabitants of the occupied territories in accordance with international law. He added that Israel must respond to the peace efforts, because peace is in its own interests as well as those of the other countries of the region.

Additional Remarks

NC2807110091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0944 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Speaking after his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at Arab League Headquarters in Cairo today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said they discussed topical issues in connection with the Middle East problem. Musa added that the question of the Palestinian representation at the peace process is still under discussion and that consultations are continuing on all aspects of the peace process. He noted, however, that the Israeli side has yet to make any positive sign, adding that this issue and others will be raised during Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's upcoming talks in Cairo.

On the situation in Iraq, Musa said that efforts are under way through diplomatic and political channels to induce Iraq to comply with Security Council resolutions on control of its nuclear weapons. He emphasized that Egypt believes Iraq must fulfill its obligations and that Iraqi nuclear disarmament should be part of a comprehensive Middle East process, binding on all countries of the region, not just one. He emphasized the importance of Iraq's fulfilling its obligations in accordance with Security Council resolutions. He said that this process should be followed by the creation of a zone free from the weapons of mass destruction covering the entire Middle East, with no exceptions.

Asked whether an Arab conference would be convened to endorse this stand, Musa said there are no plans for such a conference at present. He said that contacts are under way with Arab countries, but no decision on a conference has been reached. He pointed out, however, that Egypt will act at the appropriate time to defend rights and to find a balanced formula for arms control in the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM Interviews Levi

NC2707213891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi stated that an agreement has been reached with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on most of the issues on holding the Middle East peace conference. He said that only one issue remains unresolved: the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Baker is working with King Husayn of Jordan and will send us clarifications on it, Levi said, adding: We are waiting for Baker.

This statement came in an interview with AL-AHRAM which will be published tomorrow, Sunday, prior to Levi's arrival in Cairo on a visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

David Levi said that his government's stand on the question of Palestinian representation is that there should be a Palestinian delegation from the West Bank and Gaza, but not from the PLO. He said that the Palestinians should accept the arrangements for autonomy after three years which will be followed two years later with negotiations on final arrangements. This is the stand taken by the Israeli Government with Baker and which will be given to all the concerned parties.

When asked whether he believes that the peace conference will start without a solution on Palestinian representation, David Levi said: I do not want the conference to collapse. I want it to start.

In the interview, Amirah Hasan, AL-AHRAM's correspondent in Israel, asked Levi how the Arab-Israeli conflict can be resolved without the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Levi said that the Palestinian problem was the cause of many issues, but that it has never been the sole reason for the conflict.

Levi tried to evade answering a question on the Palestinians living in the camps since 1948 given the fact that the Palestinians are not the only people living in the occupied territories by saying: Should anyone be thinking of establishing a Palestinian state, they should understand that the Israeli Government refuses to have that state in the West Bank. Even the opposition in Israel opposes the establishment of a Palestine state.

Speaking about the aim of his visit to Cairo, David Levi said: To encourage peace. I will try to increase cooperation between us in the agricultural, scientific, technological, and medical fields. I don't know how successful I will be.

Levi said: It is no secret that we prefer Washington to be the venue for the peace conference. The United States is now the leading superpower. I do not see anyone rejecting Washington as a venue, and any other venue will cause divisions.

On Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, David Levi said: When we sit at the negotiating table, Israel, from the security point of view, believes that the Golan and the settlements are vital. Israel cannot go to a conference that has conditions, namely that we give back the Golan or withdraw from it. Levi said that Israel has no ambitions in Lebanon whatsoever. Because of our circumstances, however, and of our position and because of the existence of a threat to our security, we took measures to protect our settlements. The Lebanese Government can talk with the Israeli Government about Lebanese sovereignty. Israel is ready for this.

On Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, the Israeli foreign minister said: Relations will be resumed soon. We have taken serious steps with respect to relations with the Soviet Union.

Replying to a question on Israel's continuing to build settlements, he said that this issue can be discussed during the negotiations, adding that Israel has a thousand reasons to continue its settlement policy and has the right to do so.

Deputy Prime Minister Comments

TA2907111191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jul 91 p 3

[Report on interview with Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian deputy prime minister, by Smadar Peri; in Cairo, on 28 July]

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egypt's deputy prime minister, who will hold a tete-a-tete meeting with Foreign Minister David levi today, last night avoided answering whether Minister Levi will be returning from Cairo to Israel in two days with an invitation from President Mubarak to Prime Minister Shamir for a meeting between the two.

"President Mubarak is the one to issue such an invitation," Dr. Ghali said, "and it is the authority and decision of the president alone. I am merely a deputy prime minister...."

[Peri] Were Mubarak's declarations that Shamir is torpedoing the peace process with the intention of causing it to fail meant to signal to Foreign Minister Levi not to suggest that Mubarak invite Shamir to Egypt?

[Ghali] My reply to this will also have to be "no comment."

[Peri] What will you tell Levi tomorrow afternoon in your office?

[Ghali] I hope that in our meeting, Minister Levi will present a correct and positive Israeli attitude toward the peace conference. We have been living in peace for the past 14 years, and now is the time to start a new stage. I hope to hear that you are willing to attend not only the opening session of the conference, but to continue sitting in the experts committees.

I sincerely hope that now that the Arab ground has been prepared, Israel will join and help continue the momentum. I will remind Minister Levi that the peace between Israel and Egypt constitutes a successful precedent.

[Peri] Prime Minister Shamir has found similarity between President al-Asad and President al-Sadat. Do you accept this similarity?

[Ghali] Certainly **not**. I am saying this not only as a statesman, but also as a historian. One cannot compare what happened in 1977 with what is happening today. Circumstances and conditions are absolutely different from what they were 14 years ago.

[Peri] And still, Shamir claims that President al-Sadat at the time and al-Asad today reached a decision to hold peace negotiations with Israel following their evaluation of the global situation.

[Ghali] Prime Minister Shamir certainly knows what he is saying better than I do. Although I disagree with the comparison he has drawn between al-Sadat and al-Asad, I agree with his statement that there are good chances of attaining peace today. The sooner he starts, the better—for Israel as well.

Israel Urged To Stop Hindering Talks

NC2807090891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0648 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—In their editorials today, Cairo newspapers denounce the Shamir government's position on the peace efforts, the obstacles it is placing before an international conference, and its persistence in building settlements in the occupied Arab territories. The papers warn that if the current opportunity for peace is lost, the region's stability and security will be at risk.

Under the headline "Never-ending Noes," AL-AHRAM says U.S. and Arab flexibility over a peace conference has caused Israel to sink ever deeper into its quagmire of noes. The paper reviews everything the Arabs have done to facilitate the convening of a conference, such as the dropping of their insistence on an international framework, their acceptance of the role of silent observer for the United Nations, the PLO's agreement not to attend the conference, and the proposal to lift the Arab boycott against Israel in return for a halt to the building of settlements. The paper says that everything the Arabs have offered has met with a no from the Israelis, who apparently believe they can impose their agenda on the Arabs and the Palestinians, thereby depriving the other parties of their rights in advance.

AL-AHRAM stresses that if the noose around Israel is tightened, it will have to agree, even if not wholeheartedly, to the peace conference in the form it itself proposed as a substitute for an international conference.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that if the Moscow summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev calls for a Middle East peace conference and defines its venue, date, and participants, this move would block further Israeli attempts to play for time. The paper notes Israel's efforts to stall by its constant raising of new conditions and restrictions, such as the need for Syria to open its borders and allow Syrian Jews to emigrate and for it to stop its armament programs, as well as its other conditions about the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The paper says that if the Moscow summit decides to issue invitations to a Middle East peace conference, it should also issue a statement of intent defining the framework of a just and permanent settlement so that the conference does not become a mere exhibition which Israel can sabotage and walk out of without doing what right, justice, and international legitimacy require and demand.

AL-AKHBAR expresses the hope that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to Cairo tomorrow will lead to a change in Israel's unending rejection of every peace move and that the Shamir government will refrain from raising further obstacles to negotiations. The paper notes the favorable international conditions for starting

serious and comprehensive negotiations to eliminate the sources of conflict that prevent the establishment of a genuine and permanent peace in the region. Noting that any negotiations require a favorable atmosphere to succeed, it urges all parties to help achieve this by not setting preconditions or regarding certain issues as nonnegotiable, something Shamir is now trying to do. The paper wonders whether Israel will listen to reason and follow the norms of civilized behavior.

'Shamir's Maneuvers' Viewed

NC2907095591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—In their editorials today, AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH warn of the danger posed by Israel's continued efforts to stall the Middle East peace process at a time when the process is entering a decisive phase and the parties concerned must do everything possible to steer it in the right direction.

AL-AHRAM notes that despite Egypt's repeated calls for it to take practical measures to build bridges of confidence with the Palestinians and the Arabs in general, Israel has insisted on acting in a way that only widens the gulf between the two sides.

The paper says that Egypt's call for Israel to improve its treatment of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, in line with international law, still stands. It adds that this call has been linked with President Mubarak's proposal that Israel halt its settlement activity in return for a lifting of the Arab boycott, which is intended to help create a favorable climate for starting peace talks.

The paper points out that Egypt's approach to the peace negotiations is based on its understanding of the need to create this favorable climate, its nonrecognition of the status quo, and its appreciation of the importance of the peace process. Anyone who attempts to block this process, the paper says, must be held responsible for the consequences.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM stresses that a just peace will benefit all the region's peoples, and that attempts to retreat from, stall, or conspire against peace can no longer be concealed by propaganda.

AL-JUMHURIYAH refers to President Husni Mubarak's warning that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's maneuvers could spoil, hamper, or nullify a peaceful solution.

The paper says in its editorial that President Mubarak clearly and firmly stated that the continued building of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories would be a catastrophe and lead to a new round of violence because of the large amount of weapons contained in the region, which has become a time bomb.

The paper notes that these words demonstrate the highest degree of international responsibility and constitute an open message to everyone concerned, be they in Israel or anywhere else. It wonders whether those concerned will heed this message and participate in a responsible and serious effort to ensure that the fuse of the time bomb is not lit.

Israeli Attack on Pakistan Planned

NC2907095991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0613 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has accused Israel of planning to deal a devastating blow to an Islamic country exercising its legitimate right to use its nuclear resources for peaceful purposes. The paper was referring to Pakistan, whose scientists have made great strides in this field.

The paper recalls Israel's criminal destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor more than 10 years ago and the assassination of Egyptian scientist Dr. al-Mashd by its intelligence service.

In its editorial, the paper notes the Pakistani prime minister's recent warning that his country could not remain passive in the face of any attempts to attack its nuclear facilities with the help of a neighboring country.

The paper points out that despite the ambiguity of this warning, an incident that occurred in Kashmir some two months ago revealed Israel's secret plans to use this Indian-ruled province to carry out its plans against the Pakistani nuclear reactor, despite the fact that such action would be a blatant violation of the sovereignty of a member of the United Nations.

The paper says that when fedayeen seeking to liberate Kashmir attempted to kidnap a group of supposed Israeli tourists, the fighting that ensued revealed that the Israelis were actually intelligence agents who were in Kashmir to carry out a plot against Pakistan to obstruct its progress in the nuclear sphere.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR asks: What do Washington and the international community think of this new Israeli plot?

Iraqi Arrives for Arab Communications Conference

NC2707153691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Jamil Ibrahim, under secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Transport and Communications, arrived in Cairo today to attend the Arab communications ministers conference, which will open in Cairo tomorrow.

In an arrival statement, the Iraqi official said that the purpose of the conference is clear: to establish an Arab ministerial communications council, standardize Arab telecommunication systems, and strengthen the cooperation between Arab and foreign telecommunication departments and establishments.

The Iraqi official affirmed that efforts are currently being made to repair the Iraqi telecommunication system despite the economic difficulties the country is currently facing.

The Iraqi official was welcomed on arrival at the airport by Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport.

*Mubarak Expected To Meet al-Qadhdhafi, al-Bashir

91P40376A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 91 p 4

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Knowledgeable sources have said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is expected to visit Libya after he returns from his European trip. He is expected to hold important discussions with Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on recent Arab and international developments.

The same sources noted that an Egyptian-Sudanese meeting may be held at the summit level in the Libyan capital during President Mubarak's visit, since Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir is expected to arrive in Tripoli during Mubarak's visit.

This anticipated meeting comes as part of Libyan attempts to reconcile Egypt and Sudan and clear the air in their bilateral relations. The sources noted that arrangements for this meeting had been discussed through direct diplomatic contacts among Egypt, Libya, and Sudan.

Sudan had contacted Col. al-Qadhdhafi on an urgent basis following the sudden crisis with Egypt at the beginning of this month. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From al-Qadhdhafi

NC2807200091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a phone call from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi this evening. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of international issues of mutual interest, as well as on bilateral relations.

Mubarak Receives Delegation, al-Qadhdhafi Message

NC2907101491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a Libyan delegation at the Presidential Palace in 'Abidin this morning. The delegation, which includes the Libyan secretries of justice, interior, communications, electricity, industry, and trade, is led by 'Abd al-Qadir al-Sawsa', secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, who conveyed an oral message to President Mubarak from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, who attended the meeting, said President Mubarak's meeting with the members of General People's Congress was friendly. He also emphasized the president's wish to promote Egyptian-Libyan relations and to eliminate all obstacles.

For his part, 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Sawsa' said he had conveyed an oral message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to his brother President Mubarak as part of their ongoing contacts on bilateral and international issues.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Marks Spanish Occupation of Tripoli

LD2607195491 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 26, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi confirmed that the aggressive attack carried out by Spain on the city of Tripoli in 1510 was not the first attack and will not be the last attack. In the significant speech he delivered, last evening, in the ceremony which was mounted in Tripoli, on the occasion of marking the Spanish occupation of Tripoli, he said a thousand years before this attack, another attack took place. The Vandals launched an attack from the same place in Europe, from Spain and Italy. They attacked the city and massacred its people. [passage omitted]

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that America was seeking any justification for aggression against Libya or Iraq or any other Arab country. It always produces a thousand false pretext as a justification to carry out its aggression over the Arab nation. Col. al-Qadhdhafi stated: We are not idiots. Humanity is not idiot, it realises the aggression recurs without the existing pretexts. He indicated that if there were some justifications now, what were the justifications then when Spain occupied Tripoli in 1510? What were the justifications for the Italian occupation of Libya in 1911? What were the justifications for the [Roman] aggression over Carthage in 218. [passage omitted]

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that Europe always looked at the Arab homeland as a whole single target, which it could not occupy part of unless it occupied the other parts. Col. al-Qadhdhafi added: What we must understand from this lesson is: even the Israelis—who are a European assault, occupying Palestine—and Palestine was not occupied from the east or from the south but was occupied from the north. [sentence as received] [passage omitted] He added that the Israelis now consider the international conference as nonsense and that they are manufacturing atom bombs and nuclear missiles with 4,000 miles range indicating that such range will reach the region of North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, Sudan, and Mauritania.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that Jews and Christians were the Crusaders now and they are imperialism and Zionism: Those will never be satisfied with us unless we become slaves flowing them. This is their character. The leader talked in his important speech about what is called: the peace conference and the recognition of the Israelis, asserting: The war plants still produce atom bombs. The enemies continue to build their air and naval forces, day and night. Millions of immigrant Jews continue to flock into Palestine from all over the world and years later will attack Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, and establish their state from the Euphrates to the Nile. They cannot settle down until they drink from the Nile and Euphrates because they have no water of their own, this is inevitable.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that the Israelis did not care much whether the Arabs recognize them or not, because they continued to manufacture atom bombs relentlessly. He asserted that the U.S. did not intervene with the Israelis as it has done with Iraq, to destroy their weapons: The American Security Council [as received] did not issue a resolution stripping the Israelis of their atom bombs. Only the Arabs can strip the Israelis by force, and this does not come about except with Arab unity. The leader added: If Arab unity is not reached, the fate of the Arabs, everywhere, no matter how friendly they were by demanding peace, is the same as the fate of the Libyans on Thursday 25 Nasser 1510. [passage omitted]

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted: We will strike Italy and Spain if any attack or aggression against Libya was launched from them, despite our sentiments, feelings and wish for peace and more friendship with them. He indicated that if those nations were seeking to live in security and peace, then they must close all the bases of aggression against the Arab nations, do not assist aggression, and not make their ports stations for the fleets of aggression, for ever.

The leader said: From now on, all those nations must bear all the harm, the reaction and the counter attack from those upon which the aggression is launched whether they be Libyans or non Libyans. We are hostile to whoever is hostile to us and peaceful with all who seek peace with us, after that we do not care how many children and women die in Italy or Spain or their homes demolished, as our children and women die and our homes being demolished. Their children and their women must die and their homes must be demolished because whoever starts aggression is more tyrannical.

The leader asserted the need to amass all potentials to build the economic and defensive capability, fortify the coast and plant the Libyan land with mines and thorns so that no one can set his feet upon it, and that is inevitable. He asserted that the Libyan Arab people wished to live in peace and security and develop its land but the invaders do not want that for us. They come to us all of a sudden in order to occupy our land as they occupied Tripoli on such a day 481 years ago. He pointed out that the inhabitants of Tripoli at that time were not trained to carry arms and did not have any weapons to defend themselves.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said in his important speech: We say to Europe, to Italy and to Spain: Now we have good relations with Spain which did all those things to us, but this problem reoccurred seventy five years later and after four hundred years the attack by Italian fascists was relaunched against us, and the attack from Spain was repeated against us, and in 1986 the attack from Italy was repeated against us.... The leader said: We call for friendship and peace. We demand that we and them be friends and trade, tourism and cooperation exist between us. They made us accustomed after a while to expect an attack from them against us. We love peace and we are peaceful, but this is no good with them, we must be prepared to confront them and defeat them when they turn into degraded beasts as they turned in the past, many times. Such readiness must start from now.

The leader indicated that so long as we have good relations with Spain and Italy, and as long as they remain friends with us, and I said that Andreotti is a man who is a friend of the Arabs, and a peaceful man, so why they do not defend Libya in international gatherings and demand the lifting of [the] economic embargo imposed on it. Also Spain, why doesn't it do the same thing and the Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales or the king of Spain, as they are now our friends, defend us against America and Zionism and say to them this is a revolutionary state and not a terrorist one, and that the nature of the revolution is independence, construction and unifying itself, as did Italy, Spain, and America. They unified themselves.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi demanded a committee to be set up to search for the families of those who were sent to exile and were sold in Sicily and Italy and remained slaves. Some got married, and stayed a slave with them, and they multiplied there.

The leader of the revolution said: We want them and their descendants back after conducting biological tests by specialized doctors to enable us to know the descendants of 5,000 Libyans who were taken from Tripoli and were sold in Italy. He said: We set up in the past a committee to identify the Libyan Arabs who were taken by force in 1911 to Italy, we discovered that thousands of Libyans were taken to Italy four hundred years ago, and were sold there. This is something that we cannot be silent about. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

'Text' of New Law Governing Political Parties

LD2607180191 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2331 GMT 25 Jul 91

["Text of law on political parties" adopted at an extraordinary session of the Military Committee for National Salvation, CMSN, in Nouakchott on 25 July—read by announcer]

[Text]

Chapter I [words indistinct] Article 1: This law aims to define regulations regarding the activity, operation, and dissolution of political parties. **Article 2:** Political parties are, in essence, organizations in accordance with Article One of Law (?64078), issued on 9 July 1964, which calls for uniting Mauritanians [words indistinct] around a defined political program within the framework of respect for national independence [word indistinct] and territorial integrity [words indistinct]. **Article 3:** Free affiliation to any political party: Affiliation is open to any Mauritanian citizen who has reached voting age in compliance with the restrictions by which some statutes [words indistinct] might abide. **Article 4:** The political parties (?must) abstain from carrying out any propaganda which contradicts the principles of true Islam. No political party can carry alone the banner of Islam. The political parties (?must) adhere to abstaining, in their statutes, programs, literature, and their political activities, from doing the following: any call for intolerance or violence; inciting any moves which can harm public order, peace, and security; any deviation from [words indistinct] toward setting up military or paramilitary organizations, armed militias, or military groups; any propaganda which aims at harming the territorial integrity of the country or the unity of the nation. **Article 5:** The political parties (?must) adhere to abstaining from any cooperation or coordination with a foreign quarter on bases which contradict the laws and regulations in force. They (?must) adhere to abstaining, in particular, from making contacts which can make them look as if they are a branch of a foreign association or grouping. **Article 6:** No political party or gathering can be formed on a basis of race, (?descent), regionalism, tribalism, or sectarianism.

Chapter II Article 7: The setting up of any political party must be legal and must be (?registered) at the Interior Ministry. This (?registration) must take place through submitting a dossier and obtaining a receipt (?on submission). **Article 8:** The dossier stipulated in the above article is composed of the following: an application which is legally drawn and signed by at least seven founding members, by mentioning the names and first names, dates and places of birth, in addition to [word indistinct] of the founding members and leaders at the national level; seven copies of statutes; copies of birth certificates of the founding members and leaders; dossiers of (?no) criminal records of the founding members and leaders; certificates of nationality of the founding members and leaders; the name of the party and the address of its headquarters and its regional and local branches. **Article 9:** The abovementioned statutes must contain the following data: the foundations of the party and its aims, particularly those related to national independence and unity, territorial integrity of the country, and the principles of democracy; the composition of the rotating body (?of the party); measures for the election of the (?executive) body and its renewal [word indistinct] of the period of its mandate and (?setting up) internal organization and financial arrangements. **Article 10:** Only the persons who fulfill the following conditions can be founding members or leaders of a party: to be of Mauritanian nationality at birth or having obtained the Mauritanian nationality by (?acquisition) 10 years ago; to be at least 25 years old; to enjoy civil and political rights and having no conviction for a public law crime and must not have received a sentence which affects honor, and (?must not have a dishonourable criminal conviction); the founding members and leaders must reside within the national territory. **Article 11:** The number of founding members of any party must not be less than 20 people. **Article 12:** The interior minister orders, (within) a period of 60 days from the date of reception of the receipt, the undertaking of any study, investigation, or necessary research to ascertain the truth of the content of the (?application for official permit). In addition to this, he can listen to any founding member or ask for any additional document, as well as change or exclude any member who does not fulfill the conditions required by this legal order. **Article 13:** After ascertaining conformity, the interior minister will publish the receipt containing the name of the party and its headquarters and the names, first names, dates and places of birth, addresses, and professions of the founding members and their posts within the party. This publication must be completed within the deadline stipulated in Article 12 under the provision that no publication can be completed if it (?appears) that the situation of the concerned party comes within the regulations of Articles 24, 25, and 26 of this legal order. In this case, the interior minister will activate the measures themselves which are stipulated in this domain. **Article 14:** Any change which occurs at the level of the leadership or administration, as well as any amendment to the statutes or any [word indistinct] of new regional or local representations must be the subject of a declaration and (?must be made known) according to the measures and conditions stipulated in Articles 7, 8 and 9 of this legal order. This declaration must be issued within one month from the date of the issuance of the decision concerning the abovementioned facts in the above paragraph and will be published in accordance with the measures themselves, which are stipulated in Article 13 above. **Article 15:** The [word indistinct] included in Article 7 of this law entitles the political party to legal status, and, consequently, this party may make representation before the justice [words indistinct], the participation of its members [words indistinct] related to the administration and meetings of its members [words indistinct] for its activity.

Chapter III: The Activity of Political Parties Article 16: Political parties are organized in accordance with the laws and regulations which are in force, in accordance with their basic rules regarding the organization of their activities regarding the fields of public meetings, information, and elections operations in accordance with the laws and regulations in force. **Article 17:** Any political party which has been legally formed is allowed to publish a periodical or a number of periodicals within the framework of the respect of the articles which are in use. **Article 18:** The operation and activity, in general, of political parties are organized through the participation of their members, gifts, and wills chaneled toward their activities in accordance with the articles pertaining to their activities and assistance provided by the state. **Article 19:** The gifts and wills mentioned in the above article should be declared to the interior minister. Their donors, nature, and value should also be declared. **Article 20:** The political party that has been formed can benefit from financial assistance from the state whose sum would be defined in the budget law. The value of this assistance

is defined according to the number of deputies from each party. **Article 21:** The political parties are required to open an account at a national financial institution to administer their activities. If need be, these accounts could be opened at agencies operating inside the country with accounts based on membership fees. **Article 22:** The political parties are not allowed, in any respect whatsoever, to receive material or financial support from abroad or from a foreign quarter present in Mauritania. **Article 23:** The political parties should carry out an organized accounting and checking of their [words indistinct] funds. Upon request from the interior minister, the parties are called upon to submit their accounts and to divulge additional funds of their financial sources and the use of such sources.

Chapter IV: On the Suspension of Political Parties Article 24: In case a political party transgresses the laws and regulations in force or causes disturbances jeopardizing public order, the interior minister can, in an emergency situation and without touching upon the legal provisions in force, suspend all activities of the concerned party and immediately close its premises by decree (?of suspension). The period of suspension cannot exceed 60 days. The decree of suspension can be appealed at the higher court which can examine this case urgently.

Chapter V: On the Dissolution of the Political Parties Article 25: Apart from self-dissolution or a dissolution according to the internal statute, a political party can be dissolved in the following cases:

1. if its formation does not observe the measures and conditions stipulated by Articles 7 and 8 in this legal order;

2. when it is in breach of the laws and regulations in force, especially those in Articles 4 and 5 of this legal order;

3. when it receives financial aid from a foreign party;

4. when it amends its statute following its rejection by the interior minister. **Article 26:** The dissolution can be carried out by a decree emanating from the council minister on the basis of a report made by the interior minister. The decree must state the reasons. It can be appealed at the higher court, which must decide within the month following the one during which it received the appeal motion.

Chapter VI: (?Party) Penalties Article 27: Whoever is in breach of this legal order by forming a political party, whatever its form and name, and leading or running it, will be sentenced to prison for a duration ranging between six months and three years and be fined between 80,000 and 400,000 ouguiyas. The same penalties apply to any person who leads, runs, or joins a political party which continues its activity or constitutes itself again during the period of its suspension or following the decision of its dissolution. **Article 28:** Any person who is in breach of Articles 4, 5, and 22 of this legal order will be sentenced to prison for a duration ranging between one and five years and be fined between 100,000 and 600,000 ouguiyas. **Article 29:** Any person who violates the regulations of Articles 19, 21, and 23 of this legal order will be sentenced to one to four years imprisonment and will get a fine of 90,000 to 700,000 ouguiyas or will receive one of these two sentences only. The maximum penalty can be doubled when the offender is in charge of the treasury of the party.

Chapter VII: Final Regulations Article 30: The decree of dissolution of a political party defines all the necessary measures for guaranteeing the probable liquidation of its property. The movable and real property of a party which has been dissolved or whose activities are not authorized can be seized. In this case, the liquidation of the property will be achieved by the state property services in accordance with the adopted measures and conditions regarding the property confiscated by the state. **Article 31:** All previous regulations which contradict this legal order, which will be published in accordance with emergency measures, and will be implemented in terms of a law of the state, are abrogated.

[Signed] President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya for the CMSN

Nouakchott, 25 July 1991

Freedom of Press Law

LD2607182791 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2331 GMT 25 Jul 91

["Text of law on freedom of the press" adopted at an extraordinary session of the Military Committee for National Salvation, CMSN, in Nouakchott on 25 July—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] **Preamble:** The right to information, the right of everyone to know the truth about matters that concern him or pertain to his country or pertain to international issues, represents one of the basic human rights to which the Mauritanian people are attached. [passage omitted]

This importance dictates that public authorities and journalists and all those who carry out activities related in one way or another to this honorable profession should shoulder a major responsibility. On this basis, the state enacts laws and regulations that guarantee the exercise of these rights, and it respects them and watches over their respect. The optimum guarantee, however, lies in the shouldering by all the concerned sides of the biggest measure of responsibility and balance. These sides—the public authority, journalists, those who benefit from the information process; that is, all the constituents of society—should undertake to submit to several basic principles based on tolerance, respect for others, fairness, just treatment, and upholding the principles of freedom, social justice, and the defense of human rights and for justice among nations and to observe, in particular, the following principles:

—respect for the principles of Islam and the national cultural values;

—devotion of all to the public interest. Newspapers and other information media, whether public or private, provide the citizens with a public utility of extreme importance, in view of the various effects of dealing with it on the life of individuals and society, a matter

which calls for a high degree of professional consciousness and sensing of responsibility. [passage omitted]

—devotion to the public interest and for the sake of the unity of the country and the consolidation of harmony among the ranks of the people. This dictates that all should abstain from any use of the media to encourage the spirit of division, discrimination, and intolerance on tribal, racial, or regional basis or toward foreign communities. This also dictates the adoption of a responsible stand when peace is endangered at the local, regional or international levels.

—total respect for the privacy of citizens. [passage omitted] **Article 22:** Insulting the president of the Republic by one of the means outlined in Article 19 is punishable by imprisonment from three months to a year and a fine from 200,000 to 2 million ouguiyas. [passage omitted] **Article 31:** Open insults against foreign heads of state and foreign ministers of foreign governments will be punishable by imprisonment from three months to a year and a fine from 100,000 to 1 million ouguiyas or by one of these two punishments only. [passage omitted]

[Signed] President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya for the CMSN

Nouakchott, 25 July 1991

Kuwait

Iraqi Claims of Air Space Violations 'False'

LD2607165791 London KUNA in Arabic 1537 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] United Nations, 26 Jul (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait has condemned Iraq's stubborn behavior in dealing with international law and legitimacy. Kuwait reaffirmed that Iraq's disregard for United Nations Security Council resolutions did not begin with the occupation and destruction of the State of Kuwait, nor will it end with the detention of thousands of Kuwaiti prisoners or attempts to deceive the international community about revealing the Iraqi regime's possessions of weapons of mass destruction.

This came in a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday from the acting charge d'affaires at Kuwait's permanent UN delegation, Mr Muhammad al-Sallal, in reply to Iraqi claims about so-called Kuwaiti violations of Iraqi air space.

The letter said that Kuwait does not possess any fighter aircraft of the kind mentioned in the Iraqi memoranda which make claims about violations of Iraqi air space. The letter stressed that all Kuwaiti fighter aircraft of the AF or Skyhawk model are still in Saudi Arabia and have not been flown back to Kuwait yet.

The letter pointed out that the Iraqi forces stationed in the demilitarized zone used machineguns on 5 June 1991 to fire on three Kuwaiti citizens. This resulted in injury to one of them, and destruction to their cars. The injured person was transferred to hospital by a representative from the Red Cross in the region.

It stressed that the Iraqi claims, which everyone knows are false, conclusively prove its intentions of aggression, and the means of deception that it practises, which are significantly reflected in its desperate attempts at bypassing and procrastinating in implementing each clause of United Nations Security Council Resolution 678 of 1991 in form and content.

The acting charge d'affaires, Muhammad Sa'd al-Sallal, asked for this letter to be distributed as a United Nations Security Council and General Assembly official document under clause 153 of the working agenda.

Minister Announces Resumption of Oil Exports

LD2707191691 London KUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwait today inaugurated the first two loads of crude oil to be exported after a forced interruption which lasted several months as a result of the tyrannical Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait. The volume of the two loads is 260,000 tonnes, which corresponds to 1.9 million barrels. The oil was loaded on the tanker Thorns in a ceremony attended by Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamud al-Ruqbah, and a number of ministers and officials from the oil sector. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the losses of the Kuwaiti oil industry as a result of the Iraqi invasion were estimated at about $75 billion, including the losses in Kuwaiti production. Moreover, the Kuwaiti oil minister announced that so far 249 oil well fires have been extinguished, adding that the number of fire-brigades have been increased to 16. He went on to say that new contracts have been signed in this respect with Iranian and Chinese teams. He talked about the intention to sign other contracts with Romanian, British, French, and Soviet companies.

Minister al-Ruqbah, who was talking to a group of journalists attending the inauguration at al-Ahmadi terminal, said that Kuwait was more concerned about the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners held by the Iraqi regime than by the resumption of its oil exports or the lifting of the embargo on the Iraqi regime.

The oil minister told the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN today that these two loads come from the June production, which reached 40,000 barrels per day, and the July production, which is running at 75,000 barrels per day. Dr al-Qaqubah indicated that Kuwait's current oil production is 120,000 barrels per day, adding that the ministry plans and hopes to see oil production go up to between 300,000 and 400,000 barrels a day before the end of this year. The minister went on to say that the two loads have been sold to several companies at prices ranging between $16 and $18 per barrel, pointing out that numerous offers were made for the purchase of these two loads.

He also said that he expects to see part of the al-Ahmadi refinery—which refines oil into gasoline—repaired to cover local gasoline consumption needs. Minister al-Ruqbah stressed that work is currently under way to repair 26 oil-collection centers in Kuwait, most of which were destroyed by the Iraqi regime. He also said that he expects that Kuwait will restore its oil production capacity to its previous state. The minister added however that it is difficult to set a date for this.

Ministry Denies Palestinian Envoy's Presence

LD2907110691 London KUNA in Arabic 1026 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Jul (KUNA)—An authoritative source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has denied press statements, attributed to a so-called Palestinian charge d'affaires in Kuwait. The source indicated that nobody with that post is accredited to Kuwait.

In a statement to KUNA here today, the source pointed out that the press statements attributed to this so-called diplomat are fabricated and devoid of truth. The Kuwaiti foreign minister has no record of anyone accredited with the title of charge d'affaires at the Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait.

The source urged the media to seek accuracy when reporting such news, for the sake of truth.

Deputy Prime Minister Grants Interview

PM2607095691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Jul 91 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is the strategy of the new foreign policy?

[Al-Salim] Kuwaiti foreign policy will not change its fundamentals. It is based on Kuwait's belief that it is part of the Arab world and its belief that it is part of the Islamic world. And we are part of the world as a whole. We believe in the Arab League, in our Arab affiliation, in the Islamic Organization, and in the United Nations and its principles. These are the fixed foundations of Kuwait's foreign policy.

There are other issues which arise from time to time. A position must be adopted on such issues. A decision must be made on the basis of the circumstances of the issue that arises. There are principal Arab issues which are actually our issues—first and foremost, the Palestinian issue. The Palestinian issue is like the Kuwait issue. Apart from this, there is another view for other dealings. This is the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry's policy.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is the diplomatic and informational plan to respond to the tendentious campaign launched by the PLO against Kuwait abroad?

[Al-Salim] We will not descend to the level of lies and insults. We are above such things. The rumors and lies circulated against Kuwait are exposed by the facts. The proof of this is that the policy pursued by Kuwait through the composure of its amir, heir apparent, and architect of its foreign policy, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad (Abu-Nasir), caused the world to support us unanimously and for the first time in the history of peoples and nations.

I would like to emphasize that the PLO's position will not affect Kuwait's support for the Palestinian cause. The PLO is one thing and the Palestinian cause is another.

When we find that there are bodies that deserve a response, such as the Arab League and the United Nations, we respond to them factually and scientifically.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How harmonious are the positions of the Damascus Declaration states regarding security arrangements in the Gulf region?

[Al-Salim] Regrettably, for some reason, the world press tried to exaggerate things; when the Damascus Declaration states' meeting was delayed, a lot of noise was made. It was claimed that "There is some disagreement," and so on.

I am not telling journalists or politicians not to analyze matters, but I do ask them not to exaggerate the issue. This, because—for a certain reason or owing to special circumstances—one state requested that the meeting be postponed for a week, so there was a postponement. Then the meeting was held, in an excellent atmosphere characterized by cooperation and understanding.

The Gulf Cooperation Council states, Egypt, and Syria believe in the fundamental principles of the Damascus Declaration, namely, the political situation, the economic situation, the social situation, and the security situation. And they are willing to provide us with whatever quantity of forces we may require to take part with the Gulf and Kuwaiti forces in protecting Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What conditions must be established to improve Kuwaiti and Gulf relations with the states that adopted unfriendly stances toward Kuwait?

[Al-Salim] We are the people against whom aggression was committed. Honorable and noble Arabs stood by us and by what is right, based on their principles and morals. The world stood by us, based on this. All this is because of the principles and fundamentals in which they believe. We are Arabs and we will not abandon our Arabism. We are Muslims and we will not abandon our Islam. The question should be addressed not to us but to those who wronged us. This is because we are now in our country and will continue our policy, and whoever wants to deal with us must declare his position openly and clearly.

We did not sever diplomatic relations with any state except Iraq, and this is our right. All Kuwaiti people have the right to demand that relations with Iraq be severed. As for other states, we have embassies and diplomatic representation there. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Do you believe that Iraq will dare commit another aggression against Kuwait?

[Al-Salim] Iraq now cannot move even a little finger, and Iraq's true intentions have been exposed.

Nuri al-Sa'id tried to annex Kuwait by diplomatic means, but Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Salim was alert and refused.

Then 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim declared these intentions openly.

He tried to make the Army act, but failed. Then Saddam put them into practice.

So the Kuwaiti people should not forget this historic sequence. We will not restore our relations with Iraq as along as that clique and these intentions exist. This is my personal view.

I believe that the Kuwaiti people should not be shaken and should have no fear. On the contrary, they should stay and work in order to restore life to their country, rebuild what was destroyed by the Iraqi tyrant and his supporters, and prove to the whole world that they are a solid and strong people. [passage omitted]

Oman

Message From Jordanian Prime Minister Received

JN2807132391 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi-Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has received a letter from Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

The letter was handed to Ambassador Marhun Bin-Ahmad al-Marhun, chief of the minister's office, when he received Jordanian Ambassador to Oman Samir al-Humud this morning.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Addresses Somali Conference Delegation

LD2607193191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1843 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Address by Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud at a reception for a Somali National Reconciliation Conference delegation, headed by Aden Abdullah Osman, chairman of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference and former Somali president; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Brothers, I was very glad when I learned about what you agreed on, which will bring—God willing—good and blessings. Division does not benefit any people, but what was bound to happen happened. Talking about the past is not beneficial but serves as a lesson for those who want one. I do not want to criticize or hurt anyone since this would serve no one's interest. Regarding what happened in Somalia—a sister Arab country whose people, views, and aspirations are respected by this country—we suffer with all those who have suffered among the Somali people or the Muslims, in general, all over the world. We awaited the Djibouti meeting. On this occasion, I address my many thanks to my dear friend, the president of Djibouti. This great step and blessed endeavor led to this meeting in Djibouti, in God's holy shrine. Therefore, you are welcome. I stress to all my brothers—those present in this hall and those in Somalia—that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will stand on Somalia's side with all its potential. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is known for giving unconditional assistance. Its sole condition is that this aid be beneficial and constructive for the Somali people. [passage omitted]

I do not think the question is one of a struggle for power. I believe that many among the brothers realize that the status of the ruler entails very great responsibilities. If he is successful, God Almighty assures him of goodness and blessing. If he fails, then he causes harm to himself and to his people. I do not mean to dwell on this point much longer, but I must reiterate once again my great delight at this agreement, the agreement of manhood, bravery, love, and accord among a people which has international status. This people has suffered greatly in the past from colonialism, which is already known to the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its leadership and to the world at large. I deeply wish that the former Somali president had heeded our advice, which we offered him for so long, when the problem began in Ogadan. We did our utmost to lay down structures which, if he had adopted them, would have prevented all of these incidents. However, that cannot be helped, and we cannot say that we could have done more. We never made any statements; we never tried to interfere in Somalia's internal affairs; we never tried to embarass the former president. We only offered him our advice for the love of God and nothing else. I believe that all our brothers in Somalia, whether those present in this hall—whom I thank for coming to this sacred country—or those back in dear Somalia, are fully aware that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has its firm policy, which has been erected on certain bases for decades, that it does not interfere in anyone's internal affairs, that it does not give and then take back. [passage omitted]

I hope the Somali people will rally around the leadership it chooses of its own will and without guidance from anyone. [passage omitted]

Your second country—the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—will stand by Somalia with all its capabilities. This is not an act of kindness toward Somalia or a demand that Somalia make any concessions to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This is not the habit of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It provides good things, and it wants a reward only from God Almighty. I believe that all Muslims, from the four corners of the world and the Arab nation, fully realize that the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is that of good. I want to make some sort of clarification, and this will become clear in the future, because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was afflicted by those who want to tarnish the reputation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by depicting it as a country that has oil and capabilities but had not provided a thing to Muslims. We provided—we provided very big sums—to the Arab nation, to the Asian nation, and to the African nation. We never intended this to be an act of kindness

or doing someone a favor. We never intended to publicize what we would say in the immediate future. However, we have been afflicted by those who say that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not give a thing to the Arabs, the Muslims, or the needy. Therefore, we found ourselves forced to present the facts to the whole world: the Arab world, the Islamic world, the European world, the American world, and the whole world. They will hear of the contributions made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to make the world a happier place. The figures will be very big, and we never considered them as an act of grace on our behalf, and I never thought of saying this. We were afflicted by those who say that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had given nothing. We gave things, and they will be made public in the near future, God willing. [passage omitted]

I bless what you have agreed upon, and I hope that you will follow the right path. I do not want to define any goals. You know the right thing to do, and you have the blessing. I do not want to dictate anything, and I do not want to clarify anything more than that which you already know. [passage omitted]

Saddam Addresses Martyrs' Families, Assails Iran

JN2707193191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1728 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn said that Iran has written a chapter of betrayal and treason in the imperialist-colonialist aggression against Iraq which constitutes a treacherous, poisoned dagger.

His excellency added: To avoid a repetition of conspiracy and subversion by Iran, or any other party in the future, we must make a distinction between Iraqi citizens and foreigners.

He made this statement during a meeting with the families of the pure martyrs of al-Najaf Governorate who lost their lives as a result of the betrayal and treason of the paid agents and those who came from across the borders, as well as by gangs and mobs. His excellency also said: We must make a distinction between respecting a certain country and considering that country our master; otherwise, we will sacrifice more.

President Saddam revealed facts related to the big power's conspiracy to plunder Iraq using flimsy pretexts, as well as their attempt to control oil revenues and give us very little for the purchase of food and medicine while they try to plunder the people's wealth.

His excellency pointed out that if the politicians of the big powers did not hate the Iraqis and the Arab people, they would not maintain the blockade against Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn said: The 30-state aggression was not hidden; it was very clear, it had its preludes and banners. What was concealed, however, was the dagger of treason that emerged from within the ranks. Iran held that treacherous, poisoned dagger. We cannot talk, however, about Iran and its treachery without looking at issues of which we should have been aware. In this way we can avoid repeating them.

President Saddam Husayn asserted that what had happened would not be repeated, God willing. He said: You realize that the chapter of betrayal and treason would not have been possible if it were not for the 30-state aggression; neither would conspiracy and sabotage against our people have been possible in 200 or 300 years.

President Saddam Husayn continued: If we do not want the machinations and sabotage of Iran and Turkey or other foreign countries to recur, then we should make a distinction between Iraqi citizens and foreigners.

When the Iraqi citizen considers the United States its master, God forbid, then he will think that the United States has the right to interfere in Iraq's affairs. Is this not so?

If we consider Iran one of the family, without making a distinction between Iran and ourselves, then it will enter the house and get whatever it wants without being noticed. This means that what happened would recur, and treacherous people would reemerge from among the ranks to betray the family.

This is the lesson that we should learn well. We should also learn that the Arabs are the leaders of the Islamic religion. When non-Arabs become the leaders, then Islam will deviate from its meanings and concepts.

The president added: I am not saying this out of prejudice, for if I were not an Arab, I would not understand Islam as an Arab does. The simplest and most important requirement of the true Islamic religion is that its followers should speak its language and be able to explain its concepts. Also, whoever wants to lead the Muslims should speak Arabic because the Koran is written in Arabic. The Arabic character of the Koran is not only confined to its language and rhetoric. The Koran contains many concepts which, if isolated from the Arab nation and transferred to another nation, would not enable that nation to lead humanity on the right path. Proceeding from the this argument then, whoever considers a non-Arab to be his master and guide, his understanding of religion is lacking.

His excellency made it clear that this is the way we see things. Accordingly, Iraqi Shiites, like all Shiites everywhere and all those who cherish the Muhammad household, must concede that Islam is led by the Arabs, because the household is Arab and descended from Quraysh. They are not Turks or Iranians; neither are they French or English or Pakistanis. The household is Arab, and love for this family must be accompanied by love for the Arabs. Is this not how the situation should be? His Excellency President Saddam Husayn quoted from a saying by Prophet Muhammad, addressing Salman al-Farisi, a revered companion: Salman, I fear you may come to hate me. To which Salman said: How could I ever hate you, O messenger of God? The messenger of God said: If you hate the Arabs, you will thus hate me. President Saddam Husayn said these words were uttered by the messenger of God to Salman al-Farisi. A companion means that he was a friend of the messenger of God. There is a cleric sitting in your midst now. He is a blood relation of one of the martyrs, so he should know.

He added: We have not drawn a fine line between our love for a given nation and the fact that it may become a master over us. More martyrs will fall on the road of sacrifice.

His excellency added: We offered martyrs in the al-Qadisiyah war for eight years and they were followed by your relations; we still have approximately 30,000 prisoners held in Iran.

If the Iranian Government understood religion, it would not keep the prisoners, with the war now over. The prisoners are still being held. The Iranian Government never stopped to ask itself whether the prisoners have mothers or wives or children who might need them. Some of these prisoners' names have been withheld from

us, even though the Red Cross has a list. To date, the Iranians refuse, however, to acknowledge the prisoners registered by the Rad Cross.

His excellency the president wondered: Are not their families entitled to know whether or not they are being held prisoner or if they died as martyrs. Then there is the question of the rights due to the children and wives of the martyrs. Furthermore, you have the rights due to the prisoners themselves, especially legal rights. I repeat the question: Are not these families entitled to know the fate of their sons so they can act accordingly?

His excellency stressed: Had the one detaining the prisoners been an Arab, he would not have done so. I mean that an honorable Arab would not behave in this way.

He said one of the important lessons that should be learned from the ordeal of this long list of martyrs and prisoners is that Iran needs to be kept at bay. This also applies to other countries.

We tell all Muslim countries: You are Muslims and we are your friends and brothers in religion. As Iraqis, however, we have become used to not allowing our cousins and neighbors to enter our houses without asking permission from the master of the house. It can never happen that you Muslims become the house owners. The fact that you are Turkish Muslims, or Malaysian Muslims, or Iranian Muslims is well and good; however, no one should rule us under the cover of Islam. This is an axiom and not something new that we have created. This is applied in all countries of the world.

The president pointed out that no one rules another person under the guise of Christianity. France has its history. Italy has its history. Every country has its gates and guards. Therefore, when the Italians wants to enter France, they are asked the reason and whether he is a guest, tourist, or merchant, or whether he is armed and wants to force his way through. Every case is dealt with differently. In our case, if a Muslim claims to want to enter our home and raises his spear at us, we will resist him with arms. If he is a Muslim and comes to us as a merchant or guest carrying valid documents, however, then we will welcome him.

He stated that men and women should never lose sight of this issue and should keep it in mind always so they can learn a profound lesson from it. In this way, we Iraqis can maintain our unity as one people. Let there be differences in opinion among us. Religion is God's alone, but the homeland is for everyone.

President Saddam Husayn said: We side with goodwill, which is inspired by religion in its practical implementation. We also support the establishment of the state on principles of justice and fairness. We will not allow anyone to delve into details that could divide the people or make them fight among themselves.

The president added: If we look at the lessons of the mother of battles, we will see that these lessons do not apply to Iraq alone, but also to all mankind. Man, wherever he may be, is our brother because we are all the children of Adam and Eve. In this case, the lessons and their meanings are very considerable.

The president pointed out that certain Western politicians boast about "human rights" and the "universal declaration on human rights" that was signed by the so-called Big Five. They have agreed that these rights must be respected by all states. What one should respect most is one's right to have food. The question we ask those people is: How can one live without food? This is the basic right that must be most respected. If you listen to their radios and read their papers, you will see that they have societies for the protection of cats and dogs. I tell you these things so that you can realize what kind of cheats those Western politicians are.

The president added: They boast about protecting dogs, but they impose hunger on eight million Iraqi people. A group of them—some who have living consciousness and some who have their own reasons—said that Iraq is suffering from a shortage of food, medicine, and baby milk. Those people also say that if Iraq does not have these things and if the economic blockade against it is not lifted, a number of children and old people will die. May God protect you all.

Addressing Western politicians, the president said: If you know that a number of people will die of hunger, then where is your humanity, where are your slogans, where is your credibility? The president pointed out that the Western politicians have been exposed.

Addressing families of martyrs from al-Najaf Governorate, the president said: They imposed restrictions on the pretext that they wanted us to leave Kuwait. We have left Kuwait. Yet why does the economic blockade continue? Do you see how much they hate you?

The president added: When any Westerner assumes power, he develops hatred for the Arabs, except in few cases where some Western statesmen who assumed power do not hate Arabs, but they hate the Iraqi people. They hate all the Iraqi people, not only the Iraqi leadership, those who are in power, or Saddam Husayn; they hate all the Iraqi people. Maybe they do not have anything personal against the Iraqis, but their policies express hatred, or even great abhorrence, for you.

The president pointed out: The signs have become very clear, and we do not find it difficult to explain their hatred of you.

Iraq has left Kuwait, yet the embargo is still in place. I repeat the question: Why does the blockade continue? Some claim this is meant to keep Iraq from manufacturing weapons. All right, we will lay weapons aside. But what about factories, farms, medicines, and food?

The president added that the source of this hatred is the belief that these people who have made great progress and conjured up all the good elements of the nation must

be made to pay the price, so that it would be a lesson for others not to exceed their role of eating and drinking. They must learn not to engage in industry or agriculture, nor to mobilize the nation or pool its energies with high resolve, nor to talk about the solidarity of the nation. This is because some of their agents and underlings do nothing except eat and drink, in addition to a third instinct, namely, begetting children, just like cats. They are pleased with such people who do nothing except eat, drink, and beget children. They want such people.

The president said: In the past, they used to influence the world in the name of democracy and human rights and the new civilized criteria of humanity. These things have been exposed now by your position. You have exposed them through your sacrifices. Our martyrs undertook a humanitarian, not only national, role. These martyrs were the first people to expose Western imperialist policies.

President Saddam Husayn noted that Western leaders are now debating how to distribute Iraq's oil revenues. Some suggest they purchase bread and medicines according to their own criteria. They also want to fix the sums to finance the destruction of what they claim to be chemical and biological weapons or nuclear research installations and for so-called reparations. In other words, just as they set aside a billion dollars for us to buy bread, they take four billion to spend as they wish.

He said: Even assuming they decided on a partial removal of sanctions or a release of funds, it would not have been done for the sake of the Iraqis, nor for you to satisfy your hunger. They want to take your money. See what thieves they are. See the kind of thieves the Western politicians with stakes in Zionist companies and interests are. They are the worst kind of thieves. They snatch food from the mouths of human beings, yet they have been debating whether or nto to allow the Iraqis to buy medicines and bread. Look how impudent and hostile to humanity they are.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn urged the Iraqis to educate their children daily about the viciousness of these kind of people and to instill in them ideas they will never forget. He said [word indistinct] not only because they have killed your fathers, husbands, brothers, and relations, but because they are following that with mass murders, not sparing the children by denying them the basics of life. Even with food and medicines available, will they not need means of transport to distribute them to the citizens?

He noted that they will handle the distribution of bread and asked why. This is because they also want to steal during the distribution. They steal in distribution and trade. All of them have set their traps, some specializing in theft and others in politics to advance Zionist aims.

His excellency the president said: This is your role and the role of the Iraqi people who have exposed injustice everywhere as well as in the Arab world. This is because all the people of Asia, black Africa, Latin America, and everywhere can see their statements.

He concluded his remarks by saying: Yours is a key role, and you will be generously rewarded by God. The martyrs have gone ahead of us. Glory be to martyrs and the banner of Iraq and the families of martyrs.

UN Nuclear Inspection Team Arrives 27 Jul

JN2707203791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1937 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—The UN team charged with inspecting the Iraqi peaceful nuclear installations arrived in Baghdad today.

The 20-strong team, headed by Mr. David Key [name as received], will start to inspect those installations tomorrow.

Activities Reported

JN2807195291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1849 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Asked by the INA science editor about the activities of the UN team during its current visit to Iraq, the head of the Iraqi counterpart to the UN nuclear inspection team stated the following:

The UN team arrived in Baghdad yesterday afternoon. It is made up of 19 persons from 10 countries. This is the team's fourth visit. It is expected to stay in Iraq for two weeks.

The Iraqis met with the head of the UN team last night, and the two sides discussed the basic duties and work the UN team intends to carry out during its stay in Iraq.

The head of the UN team praised the spirit of cooperation that prevailed during the third team's visit and expressed hope that the cooperation will also be extended to his team.

The Iraqis stressed that they were fully ready to cooperate and explained that the quiet, objective scientific atmosphere that prevailed between the two sides helped the third team succeed in its mission. The Iraqis expect the same atmosphere during the current visit.

The team began its work in the al-Tuwaythah nuclear site this morning. The Iraqis provided a list of the remaining nuclear materials that Iraqi technicians had dug out of the rubble. The Iraqis had earlier expressed hope that these materials would be found as soon as the rubble were removed.

The two sides held a detailed discussion of the nuclear materials.

Iraqi technicians answered the UN team's questions on the use of these materials, and the two sides agreed to resume discussions and the inspection next Tuesday.

The UN team split into two groups. The first group acquainted itself with some of the electromagnetic enrichment equipment and the second acquainted itself with the centrifuge [al-tarid al-markazi] equipment. The team also toured the al-Tuwaythah site to inspect the centrifuge equipment and the overall damage caused to the center's buildings.

The two sides held a series of meetings and the UN team was briefed on Iraq's method of enrichment through the use of the centrifuge. The team also received answers to its questions. The two sides then agreed to hold a scientific seminar shortly regarding the Iraqi method of enrichment in accordance with the letter the Iraqi foreign minister sent to the UN secretary general on 7 July 1991.

IAEA Report on Nuclear Program Examined

AU2907104391 Vienna PROFIL in German 29 Jul 91 pp 43-44

[Stefan M. Gergely report: "Warn and Threaten"—all Iraqi place names as published]

[Text] In al-Tarmiyah the Iraqis have built a complete facility for the production of uranium that can be used for nuclear bombs. In al-Tuwaythah they operated a pilot facility, which might already have produced three kg of highly enriched uranium. An internal IAEA report reached this conclusion following inspections in Iraq.

It is still unclear whether and to what extent the al-Tarmiyah facility has produced enriched uranium. In any case, the facility was finished in 1990; that is, before the Gulf war. According to the current investigations, it is certainly possible that Saddam Husayn has enough material to make a nuclear bomb. Officially, he admits only the enrichment of a half kg of uranium-235. This would be too little for a bomb, because a critical mass of about 25 kg of uranium-235 with an enrichment of 90 percent is needed to start an explosive chain reaction. It is a fact that Saddam had not used the fuel rods he bought for the operation of nuclear reactors, which are constantly checked by the IAEA, for the production of nuclear weapons. The inspectors found about 30 kg of highly enriched uranium in the form of fuel rods. Obviously, Saddam was aware of the fact that it would quickly be noticed if he used this material to build bombs.

It is bad enough, however, that Iraq has been able to continue an ambitious nuclear project for years, which must have cost several billion dollars according to experts. Even though some experts suspected that Saddam was interested in the enrichment of uranium, there was only vague speculation about the progress of the work.

All IAEA inspections before the Gulf war were futile because they were limited to those sites that Iraq had officially declared. "We must be able to visit every facility, including those that have not been declared," IAEA head Hans Blix demanded as a result of his experiences with Iraq. All countries must reveal their nuclear projects. IAEA control must be enforceable.

These are nothing but pious wishes, particularly because countries such as South Africa, Argentina, and Brazil have not revealed their nuclear projects so far and Blix continues to assume that one must believe the information provided by the governments. The IAEA cannot do more because at present it is, in reality, a union of 112 governments and not an independent controlling body. So long as there is no effective control, that also relies on espionage if needed, the dictators of the Third World will, however, continue to cover up ambitious nuclear projects. The IAEA report proves that Saddam lied to the IAEA and the world until very recently and he did so willfully. According to UN Security Council Resolution 687, he would have had to provide detailed information on his nuclear facilities within 15 days.

Instead, on 18 April, Saddam let it be known that there are no nuclear projects to be declared. After a repeated demand by the IAEA, Saddam handed over a list of nuclear facilities near al-Tuwaythah. There, too, no indication of a program to enrich uranium was found. Only after two thorough on-site inspections did it dawn on the IAEA what Iraq had tried to hide through camouflage and deception: The dictator used the method that the Americans had successfully used during World War II to build the Hiroshima bomb. No one had expected that the Iraqis would strive for this long-forgotten method for uranium enrichment. The experts had instead suspected that Saddam wanted to acquire the modern technologies of gaseous diffusion and gas centrifuges—something that Saddam has probably tried parallel to his other efforts. However, the technology for these methods is difficult to acquire. Therefore, for a long time it was considered unlikely that Saddam could produce uranium that could be used for bombs.

The Hiroshima bomb, on the other hand, was produced with the help of EMIS technology. EMIS is an abbreviation for "Electromagnetic Isotope Separation Technique" and means the separation of fissionable uranium by means of electromagnetism. The process has been extensively described in generally accessible scientific literature; the necessary parts can be obtained easily. This method is not used by the big powers at present because EMIS needs a great deal of energy. Saddam, however, had and still has enough crude oil, and therefore, electricity is no problem for him.

Even though, according to the IAEA report, the buildings in Saddam's suspected nuclear centers were seriously damaged by U.S. bombings during the Gulf war and the Iraqis have meanwhile removed almost all the equipment, all signs indicate that Saddam worked actively and successfully on enriching uranium by means of EMIS.

EMIS goes back to U.S. physicist Ernest Lawrence, who turned a particle accelerator into a gigantic uranium centrifuge at the University of California in Berkeley in

November 1941. The following spring he had enough explosive material for two uranium bombs. Lawrence evaporated uranium salt and ionized the resulting gas atoms; that is, he separated one electron from each of the atoms. The electrically neutral atoms thus turned into positive uranium ions. He accelerated these ions in the transformed accelerator (called "Calutron") by applying electric voltage. Then the ions were sorted by a strong electromagnet. The fissionable uranium 235 parts were forced by the magnetic field into narrower curves because they are lighter than the heavier uranium 238 parts, which cannot be used for bombs. Now Lawrence only had to collect the streams of uranium 235 ions. The method is very efficient if one has uranium with a 235 content of about 3 percent.

Saddam has considerable amounts of uranium. According to the IAEA report, 204 tonnes of natural uranium, 1,762 kg of uranium with an enrichment of 2.6 percent, and about 30 kg of uranium for fuel rods are stored in Iraq. The exact amount of nuclear material is not yet certain as the Iraqis refused the IAEA inspectors access to two suspicious facilities. Many indications point to al-Tarmiyah as the center of an enormous EMIS facility. The magnets necessary for that have also been found. The Iraqis tried in vain to pass the facility off as a harmless factory. They told the inspectors that building 33 was a factory for transformers. This is "completely incredible from the technical point of view," the experts stated, because in the building there were two cranes with a capacity of 10 tonnes and another two with a capacity of 25 tonnes. The electricity supply totaled a gigantic 100 megawatts. The facility is actually intended for three dozen EMIS machines, the experts concluded. Probably it was supposed to form the first stage of enrichment. The second stage of uranium enrichment was probably planned in building 245 in al-Tarmiyah.

In al-Tuwaythah, on the other hand, the Iraqis wanted to operate a pilot facility for enrichment. The inspectors noticed building 80 in al-Tuwaythah, because it is planned for an extraordinarily high power capacity of 7.4 megawatts. The Iraqis hypocritically declared it as a "nuclear physics laboratory." Another facility northwest of al-Tuwaythah—called al-Hamath—was first declared a "factory for servicing trucks" by the Iraqis. Later on, they corrected that by claiming it was a depot for machinery. The inspectors noted an electrical capacity of 1 megawatt, as well as high-capacity facilities for the purification of water, in addition to two gigantic cranes, one of which is labeled "Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission."

After these experiences, it is not surprising that Saddam Husayn let the ultimatum to reveal all nuclear projects, which expired last Thursday [25 July], pass unheeded. It remains a question now as to how long the dictator will keep trying to lead the IAEA inspectors around by the nose.

UN Envoy Protests U.S. Airspace Violations

JN2807050491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2054 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] New York/United Nations, 27 Jul (INA)—U.S. aircraft contined their violations of Iraqi airspace on 26-27 July 1991 for the purposes of provocation and surveillance.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general today, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations said that the U.S. air activity involved 32 air sorties with over 13 two-aircraft formations, one four-aircraft formation, and two individual sorties at speeds of 600-900 km per hour at various altitudes.

He explained that the aircraft activity was centered over Irbil, Dahuk, and north of Mosul. Moreover, a formation of four F-16 aircraft flew over the Tall 'Afar airport at a low altitude.

Oil Minister on Preparing Pipelines for Export

JN2807080491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti says Iraq is preparing its oil pipelines that pass through Turkey and Saudi Arabia for exporting oil.

Al-Hiti described Iraq's relations with the two countries as "good relations, so long as they are not subjected to foreign intervention that would harm them."

The minister told today's edition of AL-JUMHURIYAH that instructions have been issued to the relevant institutions to expedite preparations of the portion of the oil pipeline located on Iraqi territory that passes through Saudi Arabia, and make it ready for operation whenever it is needed.

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti discussed the capacity of the pipelines passing through Turkey. He said that currently they can accomodate the production capacity of the northern oil fields. He ruled out the possibility of reinforcing them with additional pipelines at present due to the heavy costs involved.

Regarding the Arabian Gulf outlet to export Iraqi oil, he said that the ministry is seriously seeking to expand the al-Bakr and al-'Amiq ports.

With regard to exporting through Jordan through the port of al-'Aqabah, the oil minister said: This is currently at a standstill due to Jordan's commitment to the UN resolutions. He noted that future use of this line is not under consideration because export via al-'Aqabah by tanker trucks is not economically feasible.

The oil minister condemned the fragmentation and fraudulent policies targeting OPEC and its members. He accused Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Iran of leading these destructive policies.

Al-Hiti said that the position of this trilateral coordination was conspicuous during the OPEC conference in Vienna last month. He hinted at a U.S. role in activating these policies hostile to OPEC members, affirming "that it is unacceptable for one country, even if it is a superpower like the United States, to unilaterally control OPEC, as the interests of many OPEC members do not mesh with those of big powers."

In this regard, Usamah al-Hiti referred to the positions of Algeria, Libya, Indonesia, and Nigeria which rejected, during the conference deliberations, the policy aimed at decreasing prices and the measures taken by Saudi Arabia and the UAE to flood the market with crude oil.

The minister added that Indonesia and Nigeria will be gravely harmed by these policies due to their low export quotas and poor technical capabilities.

Saddam Reportedly Executes 90 Guard Officers

NC2807154391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The tyrant Saddam Husayn has executed 90 officers of the Republican Guard's Hattin Unit [name of unit as heard], including the unit's commander, Colonel Mahmud Salim Rida. According to reliable Iranian sources, this campaign of executions by the tyrant was carried out between 8 and 12 July, following the discovery of a plot to assassinate him and eliminate members of the Revolution Command Council and some senior ministers and officials.

The sources added that these officers, who had numerous opportunities to eliminate the tyrant, refrained from assassinating Saddam simply because the goal they had set for themselves was not restricted to eliminating him alone, but also included those in his entourage.

The sources said this group of officers began plotting to assassinate the dictator a few weeks after his Gulf war defeat. They hoped to eliminate Saddam and his henchmen together during meetings scheduled to be held at the tyrant's headquarters at the end of the first week of this month to discuss military, economic, and political conditions in Iraq and to review the program drawn up by Sa'dun Hammadi's cabinet.

The Iranian sources added that they do not rule out the possibility that news of the plan to assassinate the tyrant was leaked by an Arab country that is friendly to the dictator and whose military attache in Baghdad had a close friendship with the Hattin Unit's commander. An informed Iranian source quoted an Iraqi officer who was a member of the group and who, together with three other officers, fled to northern Iraq and reached Banjwin on the Iranian border, as saying that the tyrant's regime continues to pursue members of the group who had direct links with Col. Mahmud Salim Rida. He added that he fears further executions will occur in the Republican Guard's ranks, particularly among those officers who had links with the Hattin Unit commander.

Shamir—Talks 'Only a Short Time Away'

TA2907123991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1125 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that he will not comment on President Mubarak's personal attacks because he wants peace to succeed. Our Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir reports on Shamir's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Nir] The prime minister said that the beginning of a conference is only a short time away. When U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in Israel, it will be possible to resolve all problems blocking the opening of a conference within a short period of time. The prime minister commented on his expectations from Foreign Minister Levi's visit to Egypt as he emerged from the committee session.

[Shamir] I suppose that thorough and comprehensive deliberations will be held in Egypt about its relations with Israel. Our foreign minister will have a great deal to say to his Egyptian counterpart. He will have something to say about the statements the Egyptians have been making these days and how unhelpful these statements have been with regard to the peace process. He will also have something to tell them about Egyptian policy on a broad complex of relations with Israel and how normalization has sunk into oblivion; there is no normalization now. So many years after the signing of the peace treaty, there are no normal trade relations with Israel; there is no cultural cooperation; there is no Egyptian tourism to Israel. It is as if Israel and Egypt were not living in peace but were two absolute alien and estranged countries. This situation should come to an end. Our relationship could serve as a model and example to other countries to improve the climate in the Middle East. I have faith that Foreign Minister David Levi will have something to say and will say it.

[Nir] Reacting to President Mubarak's personal attacks on him, Mr. Shamir said:

[Shamir] I usually do not comment on such matters at all. I do not think that such polemics with the head of state of Egypt benefit any party, neither Israel nor Egypt. I will not comment because I do not want relations to worsen and deteriorate. On the contrary, I want to enhance the prospects for true peace, and that is why I will not react. I can afford not to comment because I know that his attacks on me have no effect, either on Israel or other countries.

[Nir] As for a possible meeting between the two leaders, the prime minister said:

[Shamir] I am in no way eager to meet people who do not want to meet me. I meet people who want to meet me. I did not ask the foreign minister to bring me back any such invitation. I also asked him not to mention to the Egyptian president the issue of a meeting with the Israeli prime minister or his evasion of such a meeting. I can live without it.

[Nir] As for the Moscow summit, the prime minister said that the leaders of the two superpowers are expected to issue a statement about peace negotiations in the Middle East. The prime minister was asked: If the summit issues an invitation, will you accept it?

[Shamir] It depends on what is written on it. I do not think invitations will be issued without first consulting the invitees.

[Nir] In his address to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mr. Shamir also referred to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The prime minister recounted that in his talks with James Baker he had raised the full severity of the predicament of Syria's Jews. If Syria has changed its ways and wants to be part of the civilized world, Mr. Shamir said, it should open its gates and let the Jews leave for the destination of their choice. However, Mr. Shamir added, the Syrian leader remains entrenched in his positions and has not budged an inch. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 29 July quotes Prime Minister Shamir as saying that "the beginning of a regional conference is currently being delayed by the question of the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The Americans have assured Israel that they stand firmly by their accords with us, notwithstanding the rumors spread by the Arabs about a change in the decisions concerning the UN observer and the duration of the conference."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el at 1200 GMT on 29 July reports that Shamir told the Knesset committee that "only the two sides would take part in the bilateral negotiations, and there would be no presence of any other element whatsoever." Furthermore, "commenting on the participation of Arabs from East Jerusalem in the talks, Mr. Shamir said: There is no room whatsoever for compromise. Jerusalem is not an issue subject to negotiation and is not included in the Camp David accords."]

Arens—Response to U.S. Due 'Soon'

TA2807045391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says he does not see obstacles that should prevent Israel from responding soon to the United States on convening a peace conference, but, addressing the Hadassah convention in Jerusalem last night, the defense minister said talks with Syria must include other issues aside from the Golan Heights.

[Begin Arens recording] Syria seems to have agreed to enter direct negotiations with Israel, and that is a very significant step. A great deal of credit for this development goes to the President of the United States, George Bush, and to his secretary of state, Jim Baker. They worked diligently and intensively to bring this about, and it looks like they have succeeded. We in Israel and I am sure you with us remember the days when it was the Syrian Army that was on the Golan Heights, and from

the Golan Heights they terrorized the Jewish settlements in the Jordan Valley, and farmers could not till their fields and children could not go to school because they were being shelled by Syrian guns. We have put an end to that, and we have put an end to that forever. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 28 July also reports on Arens' address, adding: "Defense Minister Moshe Arens says the Golan is no subject for negotiations." On the territories for peace formula, Arens said: "I am for territories for peace. Let them give the territories and we will give the peace."]

Golan 'No Subject for Negotiations'

TA2807051991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Gil Litman, following Arens' address to the Hadassah convention in Jerusalem on 27 July—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] I asked the defense minister to deny or confirm the report published in the world press that official Israeli representatives met with Syrian representatives to promote the peace process.

[Arens] I do not know about this. If such meetings were held, they are not connected to me and were held without my knowledge, but I do not think they have taken place.

[Litman] Do you share the feeling that something has changed with al-Asad, or is this a tactical change only?

[Arens] Look, I do not want to psychologically analyze this man, nor am I able to do so. I have never met him, and this may be an answer to your question on the meetings. Still, I think it is true that for the entire duration of his rule, as well as that of his predecessors, neither he, nor they, had agreed to sit down for direct negotiations with Israel. Now, although we have not heard this directly from him but rather through Secretary of State Baker, this willingness exists.

[Litman] When do you expect you will meet with al-Asad?

[Arens] I cannot tell you. Some 43 years elapsed before the Syrians decided, in principle, to meet with us. I assume it will not take another 43 years before we meet.

[Litman] The direct negotiations are around the corner, but the Golan Heights are no subject for negotiations, Arens emphasized, explaining that it is impossible that a country which occupied a territory in defense, after repeated attacks by another country, will have to return it. Such an act will only encourage the aggressor.

Views Mubarak 'Attacks' on Shamir

TA2907052891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 28 July; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Menashe] Israel has reached an understanding with the United States regarding the exclusion of PLO and Arab representatives from East Jerusalem, Defense Minister Arens said. Arens added that Israel had secured direct negotiations without making any concessions. Anyone who suspected that we may perhaps be heading toward concessions, or that this may be a trap, does not know Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. On the most important things—Eretz Yisra'el, Judaea and Samaria, the Golan Heights—there will be no concessions from Shamir, nor from the Likud, nor from this government. The defense minister also addressed the criticism the Egyptian president has leveled at Shamir.

[Arens] Yes, I was sorry to hear about this, and I believe that this is something that has repeated itself almost every day over the last week or two. I believe that President Mubarak wishes to contribute to the promotion of the peace process and help bring about the start of negotiations; in my opinion, however, his attacks on the Israeli prime minister are not helpful.

[Menashe] What about a unity government? Do you not think that during such an important period, it would be good to set up a unity government?

[Arens] I see no need for it. I must tell you that when I recall the days of the unity government, with the problems I faced as foreign minister.... [changes thought] When we were holding negotiations, Alignment cabinet members kept on issuing statements at every turn which contradicted the positions I presented in the name of the Israeli Government. Either that or they used to threaten to disband the government if we would not accept this or that position. I think it is good that today we have a united government that can speak in one voice.

[Menashe] As for Iraq, Minister Arens said that living in the Middle East, we must always be ready with an appropriate response. When asked if Iraq may again attack Israel with Scud missiles in the event of a U.S. attack, Minister Arens said that he cannot rule out that possibility, even though he does not consider it very likely at present. The defense minister denied reports that the United States is about to send a Patriot battery to Israel. We have held no contacts with the United States on this matter, the defense minister stressed.

'Sources'—Syria Might Talk Without Palestinians

TA2807092291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[By Hemi Shalev and Drora Perl]

[Excerpt] Israeli and Palestinian sources are united in the view that Syria might respond affirmatively to the U.S. invitation to a peace conference even if the problem of Palestinian representation is not resolved by then. The prime minister's bureau said last night that Israel would certainly agree to attend talks with only Syria. Among the PLO leadership, that possibility constitutes the main stimulus to reaching an agreement with the United States on the composition of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Jerusalem sources reported that the United States is active among the Arab states and the Palestinians to convince them to join the talks without any representation from East Jerusalem or the Palestinian diaspora. To that end, the United States is offering the Palestinians, as well as Israel, guarantees that the issue of East Jerusalem representation would not serve as evidence of any kind about the final status of the city. Washington has also proposed to the Palestinians that representatives from Jerusalem and the diaspora would participate in talks on the permanent status of the territories although Israel rejects such a possibility, at least in regard to Jerusalem.

There is a controversy in Jerusalem, within organizations responsible for making evaluations and among policymakers, about the extent of Syria's willingness to attend a peace conference without the Palestinians. Authoritative sources said last night that if the United States and the USSR issue invitations to a peace conference it is reasonable to assume that Syria would respond favorably. Such a development, they stressed, would only increase the pressure on the Palestinians to agree to the U.S. proposals.

Jerusalem continues to reject the U.S. request to respond to the U.S. proposals on the peace conference even before a solution is found to the problem of Palestinian representation. Despite Washington's clear desire to receive Israel's answer before the Moscow summit meeting this week, Jerusalem sources stressed last night that Israel regards its answer to the United States as a package which must include an agreement on Palestinian representation.

In a meeting with Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry assistant director general, Ambassador William Brown denied the existence of secret promises to Syria on "forcing" Israel to make a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Brown reiterated that the United States stood behind President Ford's 1975 letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, which stated that the United States extends "considerable weight" to Israel's demand to a continued presence on the plateau. [passage omitted]

U.S. Told No Discussion of Lebanon With Syria

TA2707072491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Israel has made it clear to the United States that it will not agree to discuss with Syria arrangements concerning Lebanon. Political sources told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that discussing Lebanese issues with the Syrians would be tantamount to a recognition of Damascus' right to do whatever it wishes in Lebanon.

At the same time, the Israeli sources said that it is obvious that in the framework of the regional conference, the Lebanese delegation will include diplomats who will be given directives and detailed instructions from Damascus.

Cabinet Told Lebanon Willing To Enter Talks

TA2807143091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Lebanon is willing to enter negotiations with Israel on the basis of the cease-fire agreements of 1949, or alternatively, on the basis of the agreement signed in May 1983, after the war. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 28 July repeats this report on Lebanon's willingness to enter negotiations with Israel. The 1500 GMT report is identical with the one from 1400 GMT, except for the following variation, which renders the above phrasing as: ...agreements of 1949, and not on the basis of the agreement signed in May 1983,...(changing "or, alternatively" to "and not")]. This was reported today to the cabinet in its weekly session by security elements.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir adds that the report stated the Lebanese Army is continuing to deploy around the refugee camps in Tyre and Sidon. It has not yet been given the terrorists' heavy weapons. The Army is totally disregarding the Hizballah. The Syrians, the report said, are involved in all walks of life in Lebanon, from the government down to everyday matters.

Levi 'Furious' With Ministers on Talks Positions

TA2807173991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Text] Speaking at today's weekly Cabinet session on the eve of his departure to Egypt, Foreign Minister David Levi was furious with several ministers and other voices coming from Jerusalem. All around the world they are saying that the Arabs have accepted our demands, and only here it is said they did not, Levi said. He added: The whole world hears you speak against the initiative, which is our initiative, so why should others not sabotage it? How can I go to Egypt when the atmosphere here is what it is?

At the same time, David Levi is certain of the success of his trip, despite the remarks of his colleagues and despite the remarks President Mubarak made.

The main question asked in Jerusalem today, however, was: How should Israel reply if the presidents of the two superpowers, Bush and Gorbachev, decide to issue invitations to the conference? The impression of certain circles—and it should be stressed that it is only an

impression—is that the summit will not extend invitations; it will only make statements about progress toward peace in the Middle East. At the same time, a summit meeting has its own dynamics, and Jerusalem wants to be ready for other eventualities.

The weekly Cabinet session today was relatively brief and mostly summarized things. The political issue was mentioned indirectly in a briefing by security elements about Syria.

Syria, the briefing said, has expressed its willingness to hold direct negotiations with Israel without asking for guarantees ahead of time or asking for a role for the United Nations. Syria's attitude is pragmatic, although the practical aspect of this attitude still needs to be examined. In its propaganda, Damascus is stressing the achievements it has already gained by the very fact of giving Bush a positive reply.

An indication of the Syrian attitude can be found in what its satellite country, Lebanon, is saying. As is well known, Lebanon said yes to Bush, but it is speaking about the cease-fire agreements of 1949 and not about the agreements it signed with Israel in May 1983, after the Lebanon war.

Incidentally, the Syrians are using the same language, and Jerusalem remembers that the Syrians have never agreed to talk about the final border line with Israel, not even in the cease-fire agreements.

The security briefing also stated that the Syrians have not cut down their defense spending, and they continue a military buildup and arms production. As is well known, some in Jerusalem—not everyone, of course—fear that the Syrians are seeking a peace to end to all peace.

Netanyahu on al-Asad Remarks, Peace Process

TA2807065291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Gay Zohar—live]

[Excerpt] [Zohar] Good morning to you, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. I do not know how much you have heard about the interview President al-Asad granted to NEWSWEEK, as we have only an initial report of this interview. Still, on the positive side, al-Asad also confirms there is no U.S. guarantee to the Syrians about an Israeli withdrawal or about a debate on specific issues which will be raised during the negotiations, so I understand Israel's mind is at peace in this regard.

[Netanyahu] I think that the important thing is not his demand for the Golan, as this position is not new, but that—and since I did not read the interview I do not know whether this point is included in it too—despite their position, this demand is not presented as a condition for entering direct negotiations with Israel. This is the important point. Our position on the Golan Heights is also known, but this too is no condition. We are not telling the Syrians: Take back your demands regarding the Golan Heights in order to enter negotiations with us. Both sides adhere to their positions, but what counts is that this does not prevent them from entering negotiations.

[Zohar] I do not want to spoil the joy here, but one of the points arising from the interview is that al-Asad takes care to call these talks a peace conference rather than direct negotiations.

[Netanyahu] Well, this is the crucial question. We always say that actions are the proof of intentions. We are naturally briefed by the Americans, who made it clear that the intention here is to have direct negotiations. This is Israel's aim, of course. We do not want to arrive at a permanent international conference whose aim is to circumvent direct negotiations. Therefore, our understanding and expectation is that we are going for direct negotiations with Syria. We will not go for anything else.

[Zohar] The dramatic change in the Syrian stance revolved around direct negotiations after all, while al-Asad here repeatedly mentions the news conference: We are going for a peace conference; we will talk at this conference; we will raise subjects at this peace conference; and so on and so forth. He is very particular about this.

[Netanyahu] I would not suggest reacting to a press interview. On the basis of the reports we get I do believe that what we will examine is whether Syria is willing to enter direct negotiations with us. As for the Golan Heights issue, it is important to make clear that the negotiations we speak of mention UN Resolution 242. Still, what people forget to say about this resolution, and President al-Asad definitely made no mention of this either, is that it guarantees secure borders for Israel. It is impossible for Israel to have secure borders with the Syrian Army deployed on the Golan Heights and our villages below. The Golan is not the Sinai. The width of the Sinai is 200 km while the Golan Heights is less than 20 km wide. Therefore, Israel insists on the importance of remaining on and controlling the Golan Heights.

[Zohar] Do you not share the feeling that even when the parties face each other around the negotiating table, after all the obstacles on the way have been surmounted, the meeting will in fact still run aground after two minutes?

[Netanyahu] I do not think the meeting will run aground after two minutes, although there are various possibilities which should be taken into account, of course. I believe the Syrians are well aware of our position about the Golan Heights and other issues. Still, it is a fact that they chose to begin this move while knowing what we, as well as they, will demand. Again, as far as we are concerned, we are talking about direct negotiations here, and the Americans' reports to us confirm this. The

importance then lies in the meeting itself, in the readiness to negotiate despite the contradictory positions. Therefore, I am not convinced that this move is useless or hopeless.

[Zohar] There is as yet no Israeli agreement; rather, we are waiting for various clarifications and agreements, on the Palestinian representation issue, for instance. What if Bush and Gorbachev come out on Tuesday with an invitation for a peace conference? Can you foresee a possible no on Israel's part?

[Netanyahu] Well, I suggest we wait rather than deal with theoretical questions. It is important to understand that as far as we are concerned, we were already prepared to enter direct negotiations a while ago. It is not we who raised conditions and tied the talks to other subjects. It is the Arab side which raises additional questions and ties the talks into a bigger package. We naturally have questions on these issues to pass on to, as well as through, the United States, and this takes time. Still, as far as Israel is concerned, readiness for talks has already existed for 40 years. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi—No Palestinian Concessions on Jerusalem

TA2607143591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jul 91 p A2

[Interview with Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, Bi'r Zayt University professor and delegate to the talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, by Dani Rubinstein; date and place not given]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] Even if the PLO decides to order us to make concessions on the question of representatives from East Jerusalem—and there is no chance of that—we cannot do that and we will refuse. This is not a whimsical insistence on a seemingly technical matter; this is a very substantive issue on which there is absolute agreement in the territories and on which there can be no concessions.

[Rubinstein] Have you and Faysal al-Husayni received threats over this issue?

['Ashrawi] There have been no threats from Palestinians; there has been no need for that. It is clear to all of us that any concession on the question of representation of the Arabs of Jerusalem will mean recognition of Israel's annexation. Israel's demand that Palestinians from East Jerusalem should not be included in the delegation is tantamount to a demand to recognize the annexation of Jerusalem. This is a precondition, and it is absolutely unacceptable.

[Rubinstein] Did you discuss this with Secretary Baker?

['Ashrawi] Of course. We asked him whether the United States has a position on the matter, or whether he was just presenting Israel's position. He replied that the U.S. position is very clear since the United States does not recognize the annexation as legal. Being a good diplomat, Baker added: But you know the Israeli position, and the Israelis have a serious problem with the issue.

[Rubinstein] What do you expect now?

['Ashrawi] We expect the United States to inform Israel explicitly that no negotiations can be started without representatives of East Jerusalem. I saw Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on Israeli television two days ago, and his remarks on the question of Jerusalem were very extreme and unacceptable. His statements contradict international law, and his positions do not enjoy even a tiny shred of support in the international community. On the other hand, we stand on very solid ground on the question of Jerusalem, both in terms of U.S. and international support and in terms of a sound legal basis that is accepted worldwide.

[Rubinstein] Do you think Israel can make concessions on the question of representatives from East Jerusalem?

['Ashrawi] Absolutely. Labor Party speakers once said that they favor the participation of Arabs from Jerusalem in the elections in the territories; the unity government fell over that issue. I even believe there could be a majority in Israel that understands that the Arabs of East Jerusalem must be represented. Shamir, however, as I see it, is taking his cue from the extremists. I hope that this time Secretary of State Baker will not suffice with giving the White House's phone number to Yitzhaq Shamir and his cabinet members, but will take harsher steps.

[Rubinstein] Is the question of Jerusalem the only problem hindering the process?

['Ashrawi] It is the most acute. The possibility of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is now being discussed. We will insist that the delegation be composed on the basis of parity between Jordan and the Palestinians. The Palestinian delegation will be determined by the PLO.

[Rubinstein] And will Israel agree to that?

['Ashrawi] This is not an Israeli issue, but an issue between Jordan and the PLO. Recognition of our independent Palestinian entity is what counts for us. Of course, I would rather the United States send a direct invitation to the PLO, but I realize that is impossible.

[Rubinstein] There is yet another possibility, that Jordan appoint to the delegation Palestinians who live in Amman but hold (Israeli) identity cards of East Jerusalem.

['Ashrawi] Such sophistry is not to my liking. What is needed is representation by people, by Palestinians who live here, in East Jerusalem, and not by people who do not permanently reside here.

[Rubinstein] Do you believe there are chances for progress?

['Ashrawi] There is admittedly some opposition to the U.S. proposals in the territories but what is lacking most

is faith and hope that there will be any change. At the same time, the overwhelming majority says: Let us try.

Meridor—Compromise 'Inconceivable'

TA2607175591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jul 91

["Excerpt" of Justice Minister Dan Meridor's address to a B'nai B'rith convention in Tel Aviv on 26 July—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] The Soviet Union has proved to be a broken reed of a staff. The Soviet Union supported Syria and all the Arab countries economically, politically, and militarily for many years. Where is the Soviet Union today? Al-Asad has understood what the United States is today. I think that this was definitely a factor in his considerations. I think that the developments in the wake of the Gulf War—Iraq, Kuwait, the United States—have shown the power of the United States and the international system's transition from a bipolar system to a kind of pyramid with one superpower at its apex.

It has been said that it is very important that there be a resident of Jerusalem in that delegation. Why is that important? Because, as was said in the interview [with Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi in the 26 July issue of HA'ARETZ], this is a battle over Jerusalem. It was said in the article that if a resident of East Jerusalem is not included, it was as though they agreed that Jerusalem was a part of Israel. If that is the way they present the matter, then that is the way we also present it. Jerusalem is part of Israel. [applause] The negotiations will be over autonomy and self-rule. That involves many risks, but we are ready to take them, in the framework we have set ourselves. Any agreement we reach on self-rule and autonomy, as we have proposed, will not apply to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is not part of the negotiations, and therefore those people, who are not residents of the territory, have no role in those negotiations. I assume that the Americans do not think differently than us, and I am speaking mildly. They and everyone know that any Israeli compromise on this matter is inconceivable.

Additional Meridor Remarks

TA2707115391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Lea Zinder, following the B'nai B'rith convention in Tel Aviv on 26 July—recorded]

[Text] [Meridor] I have a feeling that the fact that such a massive immigration comes to Israel changed the world view of President al-Asad regarding the time element. They used to say time is on their side: Israel is small, the number of people is very small, and in a long-term view, the Arabs are bigger and they will prevail. What they see recently is that not only Israel has not decreased in number of people or strength, but Israel is on the verge of a massive growth of Jewish population and it seems that the Jewish state is here to stay. There is no time to wait and see maybe something changes; it does not change—only for the better for Israel. So he might have understood—I can't speak for him, of course—that time is not playing for him. If he wants an agreement, it is better for him to do it now than wait until we have 5 or 6 million Jews in Israel.

[Zinder] Mr. Meridor, Faruq al-Shar' said that the Americans gave the Syrians private assurances that Israel would, in fact, withdraw both from the Golan and from Judaea and Samaria. The Americans are denying this. Did the Americans give the Israelis private assurances that there were in fact no secret agreements with Syria? Is this sufficiently reassuring to you?

[Meridor] The Americans have denied that they have given any secret assurances to Syria—all that they have said to them, what specifically was alleged by Mr. Faruq al-Shar'. I have no reason not to believe the American denial. We know that the Americans have to play here the role of an honest broker. An honest broker should be keen and open and everything that he says to both parties should be transparent, and nothing should be kept secret. I hope this is the situation regarding the American role and the connection with both the Arabs and the Israelis.

[Zinder] At the same time, the American position is clear and it is much closer to the Syrian than to the Israeli position, is it not? That is, the Americans do indeed believe that Israel must, in the framework of peace, withdraw from the territories in the Golan and in Judaea and Samaria.

[Meridor] It is a very well-known conflict of views between us and the Americans about the interpretation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We have a different construction to this resolution and we do not accept the U.S. one. But I think there is a gap—I hope there is a gap—between the Syrian contention that there is no room for negotiations on territory, that Israel should go back to the 1967 line. The Americans say that the border should be discussed and agreed by negotiations and agreements between us and the Syrians, us and the others.

[Zinder] Is this acceptable to you?

[Meridor] Of course it is acceptable that we will negotiate the borders. Only I would say from now what I think the borders should be: I think the border should be the Jordan River. [words indistinct] about Judaea and Samaria and Gaza, and I do not want to withdraw from there. But, we agreed in Camp David that the final borders should be agreed in an agreement between Israel and Jordan.

[Zinder] You are talking about territories for peace, perhaps some territories for peace?

[Meridor] I do not think that territories should be given for peace. I think that the existing border is the right

border for Israel. I do not think that Jordan has any claim or right in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but I accept the fact that 1.6 million Arabs live in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and you need some solution for these people, who are not Israeli citizens at all. We offered the idea of self-rule or autonomy, with some connection with Jordan, as even Mr. Begin put to them in 1977. This is a framework of a solution that we think about. Not yielding territories which we think we should not, not only because we think it is ours, not only because we are so deeply tied to it, but because it is a security imperative for Israel not to allow Arab sovereignty or armies back in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

We did not mount up the Golan Heights one morning because we said we need more land. When it was in Syrian hands, from there we were attacked, in the most difficult time for Israel, in 1967 in May and June. When they attacked us, when they thought we are going to be finished off by the Egyptians and they joined with them, we retaliated. We reacted to what they did, and we took the places from which we were attacked. I think this is quite normal in international relationship that if you attack, you pay something for this. I think that our security demands that we stay on the Golan, and not that we go down from the Golan. This is our firm demand, and our firm position, and this is what the Syrians will hear from us once they sit down to negotiate. Their position is the opposite.

[Zinder] Mr. Meridor, the Labor Party has said that they will be ready to support you from the outside. Why not form a national unity government at this critical time, so that in fact the nation can be united if there is indeed a chance for peace?

[Meridor] I am known to have been for unity for many years, and we have formed national unity governments more than once. We were not the ones to break it, trying to build a different coalition with the Likud outside. We have a coalition that is functioning quite well. It has brought Israel to the position we are in today, on the verge of hopefully opening another peace process phase. I do not think we should change the existing government. I hope it will not fall into any sort no-confidence or disintegration because of small parties' mistakes. I do not think they have any reason to leave the government.

Minister on Possible U.S. 'Maneuvers and Tricks'

TA2907055691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Economics and Planning Minister David Magen said that the United States may be preparing a surprise for Israel. He warned that his experience with the U.S. Administration leads him to believe that the United States could declare that it has resolved the issue of the Palestinian representation and then, three days before the conference, claim that there has been a hitch or some misunderstanding and force us to accept a Palestinian representative from East Jerusalem. Minister Magen called for the settlement of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. He was speaking at a Likud convention yesterday evening, and our correspondent Karmela Menashe was there.

[Begin Magen recording] Despite the threats and the temptations, the various definitions and warnings, we must continue to settle in every single location in Eretz Yisra'el. This is the answer to anyone who tries to threaten us into concessions on things that belong to us. I, like most of the ministers and, above all, the prime minister, want and desire peace; however, we must bear one thing in mind: These steps must be taken carefully. I, for example, would not rule out a possible scenario in which the United States sends Secretary of State Baker within the next few days to tell us that it has found a solution to the $64,000 question and that the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation will be composed according to the agreement with us. A date will then be set for a conference or meeting in Washington, and as this date approaches—and I have already seen and read reports that are typical of the present U.S. Administration—and it could be three days, or perhaps one or two days before the stipulated date, the United States may come and say that some hitch or misunderstanding has occurred and ask why should we care if only one person, such as Faysal al-Husayni, participates in the delegation we already accepted one or two months ago. I would like to warn everyone in advance of such maneuvers and tricks. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 29 July carries a report on page 5 by Hana Qim which adds that in his address to Likud activists in the Sharon area, "Minister David Magen revealed a public opinion poll, conducted by the Telemeser Company, which states that had direct elections for prime minister been held in the first half of July, Yitzhaq Shamir would have had a 13.2-percent lead over Shim'on Peres (38.9 percent for Shamir, 25.7 percent for Peres). If, alternatively, Shamir had run against Yitzhaq Rabin, the gap would have been only 2.4 percent in Shamir's favor (38.6 for Shamir, 36.2 for Rabin)."]

Tehiya's Ne'eman—'Egyptian Peace Stinks'

TA2807174991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Tehiya Minister Yuval Ne'eman this evening issued a communique concerning the remarks by Egypt's President Husni Mubarak, in which he says that the Egyptian peace stinks. It is hard to understand how David Levi will be able to hold practical talks in Egypt in view of Mubarak's personal attacks on Israel's prime minister. Ne'eman claims that Mubarak, in his remarks, has exposed the truth: It is not peace that the Arabs are interested in; rather, they seek an Israeli withdrawal from Jerusalem, Judaea and Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Sources Doubt Invitations To Be Given in Moscow

TA2907072891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The summit meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is due to start this evening in Moscow. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that sources in Jerusalem said they do not expect invitations to the peace conference to be sent to the Middle East countries during the summit. The sources estimated that Bush and Gorbachev will be content with a general declaration about the progress toward peace in the region.

Jerusalem is waiting to receive Secretary of State Baker's signature on the memorandum of understanding that was formulated during the contacts between Israel and the United States. The signature may speed up Israel's official response to the United States. [passage omitted]

Sharon on Housing Immigrants in West Bank

TA2907091191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jul 91 p 7

[By Yotam Navin]

[Excerpt] "Every mobile home for which we will not find a site will be immediately delivered to Judaea and Samaria, and the immigrants will go there. Who has time to deal with the nonsense of those who oppose setting up the mobile homes at various sites in Israel? I cannot understand the selfishness of those people who oppose the positioning of mobile homes and trailers." These remarks were made last night by Minister Ari'el Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah.

Yesterday members of the committee tried to find solutions that would make it easier for heads of local authorities to agree to place within their limits the thousands of mobile homes the Construction and Housing Ministry has purchased. Numerous plans to set up immigrant neighborhoods in various municipalities have so far been foiled by heads of local authorities and residents. Last night, for the first time, Minister Ari'el Sharon admitted that such difficulties do exist and officially announced his plan to transfer the mobile homes to the territories. "The Jews who live in Judaea and Samaria have a national consciousness. They will not worry about their homes depreciating if trailers housing immigrants are set up nearby," the minister said.

The Construction and Housing Ministry has paid a fortune for more than 27,000 trailers. So far, 5,371 such homes have been placed throughout Israel (including 1,252 in Judaea and Samaria, according to official ministry data). In addition, the ministry has set up 6,271 mobile homes (844 in Judaea and Samaria). According to Minister Sharon, the vast majority of the trailers and mobile homes will be occupied in the near future. [passage omitted]

Tzomet Withdraws Threat To Quit Government

TA2807163691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Tzomet's secretariat this evening reaffirmed the movement's participation in the coalition. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Tzomet followed the example of the Moledet movement in withdrawing all threats to quit the government. Tzomet reiterated its opposition to ceding any territory of Greater Israel. Next week, Tehiya's central committee will debate staying in the coalition or quitting it.

Mubarak Seen Replacing al-Asad as Arab Extremist

TA2907113791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "As the Minister Leaves for Egypt"]

[Text] The mission the foreign minister is undertaking today as he leaves for Cairo is one of the most important tasks he has undertaken since he assumed his post. This is not only because of the well-known and banal reason that Egypt is the largest and most important Arab state, a key country in any Middle East political process, but also because it seems that ever since President al-Asad moderated his stands, mainly with regard to procedural issues, President Mubarak has taken his place as the end player of the extreme Arab camp.

The meaning of this change needs to be clarified.

Mubarak said yesterday that after he hears what his guest has to say, he will tell him "all that we are not willing to accept." Very well. This will give David Levi the opportunity to tell the president everything that we do not accept.

In addition to the harsh tone Cairo has recently used in addressing us, even more upsetting are the conditions Mubarak and his men are presenting to us: "Stop settlement immediately; the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora and East Jerusalem in the negotiations is a must; the Jerusalem issue is an inseparable part of the conference agenda;" and so on and so forth. Their conclusion is: "Otherwise, there is no point in coming to the conference...."

Mubarak must be told in no uncertain terms that what al-Asad has understood and probably accepted—meaning, a conference with no preconditions—applies to him as well. Otherwise, there really is no point in coming to the conference.

Al-Hirawi, Karami, al-Husayni Leave for Damascus

NC2707072491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husyani left for Damascus from the Park Hotel in Shtawrah at 0945 today.

Statement on Damascus Summit

NC2807053191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Against the backdrop of the ongoing regional and international efforts to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East, a Lebanese-Syrian summit has taken place within the framework of the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination. The summit was primarily intended to enable the two fraternal countries to reach agreement on a joint approach to this conference and other issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

In a statement issued about 2300 yesterday, the presidential office's information department reported that President Ilyas al- Hirawi, Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami had met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus; also present were Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Their talks dealt with the question of an international peace conference and Syrian and Lebanese participation, particularly in light of Lebanon's agreement in principle to attend the conference. The conferees stressed the need to keep the Lebanese issue separate from that of Middle East peace and to ensure that Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon, is implemented.

President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated his steadfast support for Lebanon and for the Lebanese Army's measures aimed at consolidating security, independence, and peace.

'Differences' Discussed at Summit

NC2807082491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The 14th Lebanese-Syrian summit, the first since the two countries signed a treaty on 22 May, has ended without any information being provided on its results. Although both the Lebanese president's office information department and the Syrian presidential spokesman issued statements on the talks, no details about what was achieved during the talks have been disclosed, either by the Lebanese delegation which returned last night or the closemouthed Syrian side.

The official statements only referred to certain general topics, most notably the international conference, Resolution 425, the progress of the al-Ta'if accord, and the Lebanese-Syrian treaty, but other available information indicates that the Syrian side linked the situation in Jazzin with implementing Resolution 425. The Syrian side maintained that there can be no separation between implementing the resolution and returning Jazzin to the legitimate authorities' control.

The summit also concentrated on the worsening relations among government officials in Beirut, particularly the differences between Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, who earlier announced his intention to form an expanded parliamentary bloc, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, who regards this as an attempt to undermine his authority. Karami has criticized the speaker for what he regarded as encroachment on the prime minister's prerogatives, such as al-Husayni's statement that the Army's deployment in Jazzin would take place on 1 July. It is not yet known whether yesterday's talks succeeded in removing or alleviating these deep-seated differences [word indistinct]. Differences among a number of current cabinet members have also surfaced, but Damascus is very concerned that harmony and accord among the ministers be maintained to allow the Karami government to survive as long as possible under the theme of continuing to implement the al-Ta'if accord.

Summit participants also discussed the process of gathering the militias' weapons and focused in particular on Hizballah's weapons in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

As for the international conference and talk about differences over Lebanon's agreement in principle to attend, press sources cite diplomats in Beirut as saying that Lebanon had informed Damascus of its intention to take this position in advance and had not received a negative reply. Some sources had claimed that the recent cabinet decision to agree in principle to Lebanon's participation in an international Middle East peace conference had upset Syria, and the government's position, which U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker hastened to welcome two days ago, had been strongly criticized in the press. [passage omitted]

Karami on Peace Conference

NC2807144491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jul 91

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami by NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent Muhammad al-Hakim in northern Lebanon on 28 July—recorded]

[Text] [Karami] The Lebanese leadership visited the Syrian leadership to discuss all current issues, especially since the relations that bind us to fraternal Syria are more than fraternal. Furthermore, the [Lebanese-Syrian] treaty dictates coordination on all matters. Naturally, one of the most important current issues is that of the

peace conference. As is known, all the Arab states, including Lebanon, have agreed to participate in this conference, but the Lebanese position is different from that of the rest of the Arab countries because Lebanon has something special: It has Resolution 425, which is decisive, irrefutable, and not at all subject to any negotiations, debates, or discussions. Therefore, Lebanon's attendance at the peace conference has absolutely nothing to do with Resolution 425. This means that Lebanon will attend the conference in its capacity as an Arab state to participate in discussions on all matters related to Arab issues and to support these issues.

This must be clear to everybody. I have heard many people say that Lebanon's agreement to attend this conference constituted an abandonment or jeopardization of Resolution 425, despite the fact that we have been very clear on this matter. We repeat: Resolution 425 has absolutely nothing to do with the international conference, and we do not agree to have the Lebanese issue and Resolution 425 linked with the Middle East issue.

This was one of the topics we reviewed with the Syrian leadership. The views of the two sides were identical and harmonious.

[Al-Hakim] Mr. Prime Minister, there have been reports of Israeli concentrations in Jazzin or the (?villages) in Jazzin. In your opinion, is this a response to the [Lebanese-Syrian] summit?

[Karami] Israel does not need any justification to foment problems, concentrate forces, or send planes. We have become accustomed to all these matters. Israel tries to fabricate excuses and justifications to prevent the implementation of this resolution, but we in the legitimate authority are exerting every effort with the United States and the international community. The UN Security Council must also be spurred into action. Naturally, as long as Israel insists on remaining on our land or on any grain of our soil, the national resistance remains legitimate and free to act.

Reportage on Resolutions to Hostage Issue

Nasirite Head on German Hostages

NC2807055691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has announced that several foreign ambassadors, including the German ambassador, have held intensive contacts in connection with the case of the two German hostages held in Lebanon. Sa'd said he will continue his efforts to secure the release of all foreign hostages in Lebanon, including the two Germans. He urged the German Government to help achieve this by releasing the Hammadi brothers.

Hostage Issue Far From Resolved

NC2807163491 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Mashghara, Lebanon, July 28 (AFP)—A leading Hizballah militia figure said Sunday that the issue of Western hostages held in Lebanon was far from being solved and accused Israel and the United States of delaying their release.

"There have not been sufficient efforts to resolve this problem," said Shakh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah political bureau member and former militia chief. The shaykh, who represents the fundamentalist movement's hardliners, spoke in the al-Biqa' valley town of Mashghara, which is controlled by Syria.

He said Israel's proposal to exchange Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners for seven soldiers detained in Lebanon—two of whom are known to be in Hizballah hands—was a lie aimed at reaping political benefit.

"The proposal is not aimed at reaching a solution but only to capitalize from it as propaganda at home and abroad," he said. "If Israel really wanted a solution, it could have reached it easily and it knows exactly how."

Shaykh al-Tufayli said Israel had deliberately squashed a hostage exchange between its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) and Hizballah, but did not say when that incident occurred. He said the SLA leader, retired Lebanese Army General Antoine Lahd, was pressured by Israel to turn down a Hizballah offer he had formerly accepted, arranging the release of SLA militiamen in exchange for about 30 "mujahedeen" (Muslim combatants).

Shaykh al-Tufayli also accused the United States of "exploiting the issue of Western hostages for its political ends."

"It is obvious that the United States prefers to keep this affair unresolved. If it had really wanted it, the matter could have been taken care of years ago," he said.

Israeli Offer Called 'Propaganda'

NC2807180091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, one of the leaders of Hizballah, said today that the issue of Western hostages held in Lebanon is far from being resolved. He said that Israel's recent proposal for a swap of prisoners was a mere propaganda ploy.

Al-Musawi: U.S. Links Aid to Hostages

NC2907055991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has told REUTER that Washington is linking economic aid to Lebanon with the hostages issue because it wants to hold all the cards in Lebanon.

Buwayz on Resolution 425, Palestinian Presence

NC2707065091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that Lebanon will not negotiate with Israel over the essence of Resolution 425 but will discuss how it can best be implemented. He added: We will ask Israel, the United States, and the peace conference to ensure that this resolution is implemented fully and unconditionally. This is our condition for resuming the talks, Buwayz added.

In another statement, Buwayz told the magazine AL-HAWADITH that the root of Lebanon's problem lies in the Palestinian presence. He maintained that even if this presence has now become a humanitarian or political issue, it continues to upset the Lebanese structure.

Junblatt 'Pessimistic' Over Talks With Israel

NC2707085991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has said that Major General Antoine Lahd is fulfilling Israel's objectives and that the United States and Israel have an interest in the Jazzin area. He pointed out that the resistance cannot be asked to stop fighting Israel as long as the latter maintains a military presence in Tumat Niha and Jabal Safi.

Commenting on the issue of direct talks with Israel in a statement to the Voice of Lebanon today, Junblatt said: Lebanon has agreed to talk directly with Israel by agreeing to attend the conference. He said that what is of greatest concern to Lebanon is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. Junblatt said: I am pessimistic about the prospects of a dialogue with Israel. He expressed apprehension that Lebanon could be sidetracked into accepting something different from Resolution 425.

On the current efforts to find a solution, Junblatt said that no U.S. solution would satisfy the Palestinian people's ambitions. He said: In one way or another, we have accepted Israel's conditions. He pointed out that the Jews will keep us bogged down in protracted negotiations while immigration to Israel, and particularly the West Bank, continues.

On his continuing reservations about the Lebanese Army, Junblatt said that the Army is governed by political whims, not doctrine. He stressed that the Army should be for the whole country.

Fadlallah Condemns 'Arab Capitulation' to Israel

NC2707065291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has asserted that Israel does not want peace and that the Arabs have no cards they can use against Israel. He said that the Arabs have cast off even their last fig leaf by proposing to lift their boycott against Israel in return for a halt to settlement building. His eminence pointed out that the Arabs have given concessions but obtained nothing in return. He said that Israel needs five years to settle Jews throughout the entire West Bank and Gaza, and it will continue stalling until it has done so. Fadlallah described what is happening as Arab capitulation to Israel. He said that Israel rejects any Palestinian representation at the conference and demands that agents attend instead, to enable it to impose its views.

Fadlallah warned that the Lebanese people should not become captive to the dreams of U.S. policy. He noted that even if Israel wanted to withdraw from Jazzin and the border strip unconditionally, America would not allow it to. He also stressed that Israel will remain illegitimate in the eyes of Muslims even if the rest of the world recognizes it.

Comments on U.S. 'Booby-Trapped Peace'

NC2907074791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stressed that the United States is proposing a booby-trapped peace that is intended to strengthen Israel and further U.S. interests in the region. He added: We do not have the necessary resources to bring down Israel, but we do have the ability to harass it and threaten its security. He asked: Why has the case of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd not been given the same attention as the hostage issue, despite the fact that his kidnapping was intended to have international repercussions?

His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi, Hizballah secretary general, has said that everyone is now ready to hold direct negotiations with Israel and there is a contest to see who will be the first to do so. He added: We never imagined that there would be this readiness to hold direct negotiations with the enemy, which they attempt to justify as recognition of reality.

Speaking at a rally held in Jibshit to mark the second anniversary of the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, his eminence added: As a result of this situation and of Israel's stand, Israel holds center stage. It imposes its wishes and defines the terms for the others.

The Hizballah secretary general said: Naturally, those rulers who do not believe in Islam do not stand up for their people's causes because these causes jeopardize their position. He noted that the days when our nation was at risk are over, and we are now in the era of Muslims who accept no religion but Islam in their confrontation with the United States, Israel, and all forces of world arrogance. He added: Thus this is not the American era, but the era of peoples who have awoken to the slogans of Imam Khomeyni, sacred be his memory, and acted on the basis of Islam to save the entire Islamic world.

His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said: We fought, we drove out the enemy, and we liberated the land. Our principal concern is fighting Israel. He added that there are certain people in the government, including [word indistinct] and the defense minister, who are offering their services to Israel and the United States to fight the Islamic resistance.

Speaking at a ceremony held in Mashgharah to commemorate the martyrdom of mujahid leader Muhammad Bujayji, Shaykh al-Tufayli said: There are Zionists in the country and there are pro-Israeli ministers in the government. We did not fight Israel and remove Sharon in order to put another Sharon in control of this country. He added: When the people say no peace with Israel, the ruler must either accept this or leave. We do not want to be ruled by traitors. Our mission today is to confront the new plot that seeks to sow hatred between the youth of the resistance and their brothers in the Army. There is a difference between the latter and their treacherous leadership.

In conclusion, his eminence said: The United States does whatever it wants today; only the mujahidin in Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Algeria, and Iran confront it. We must continue this course of confronting the United States to reveal its deceit to the world and expose it as the criminal and enemy of the people it is.

Information Minister Denies Assassination Attempt

NC2807075591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] In a statement to our radio this morning, Information Minister Albert Mansur denied a rumor that he had been the target of an assassination attempt yesterday. He said the rumor was completely groundless.

UN Force Attacked From Israeli 'Security Zone'

NC2607144291 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, July 26 (AFP) - United Nations peacekeeping forces came under mortar fire Friday from Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, U.N. military officials said. Seven rounds from 120-mm mortars exploded near a patrol from the U.N. Irish contingent, travelling on a road from 'Ayta al-Jabal to Haddathah, north of the "security zone," a U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) official said. There were no reports of casualties.

UNIFIL investigators discovered that the shots were fired from the "security zone" and that Hebrew writing was visible on used shells, the official said.

Lebanon meanwhile has requested that the United Nations renew the UNIFIL mandate for an additional six months when it expires on July 31. But U.N. officials have expressed reservations about Lebanon's request to deploy its army alongside the buffer troops, saying that the missions of the two forces were not the same.

Israeli Armored Force Deploys in Jazzin

NC2707085791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces brought 80 armored vehicles, including tanks and armored personnel carriers, into Jazzin this morning. This force has been deployed on frontline positions facing the Kafr Falus combat line. Israel recently began stepping up its military reinforcements in the area, particularly after the Lebanese Army entered the south.

Beirut Reports Israeli, Lahd Militia Activities

NC2907084391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Mechanized movements by the Israeli occupation forces and their agents have been observed in the south, particularly in the eastern sector of the occupied border strip. Eight armored vehicles were seen moving from al-Dardarah toward Kawkabah hill and another 12 were observed traveling from al-Kharrub toward al-'Ayshiyah-Kafr Huna-Jazzin.

At dawn today, the enemy forces opened heavy-caliber machine gun fire at Jabal al-Dahr and the western road of Qilya after firing several flares over the area. The firing lasted for half an hour. An agent militia force also raked the Shwayya-Shab'a road. The occupation authorities today reopened the Zummarayya crossing, which they closed last Friday afternoon.

Army Releases 26 Palestinians to National Front

NC2607173491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] The Ministry of National Defense has announced that it has turned over to the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] 26 Palestinians who had been held and interrogated by the military police.

Al-Asad Discusses Peace Process, Conference

JN2907102791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 29 Jul (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad gave a press interview to Mrs. Lally Weymouth, correspondent of the American newspaper WASHINGTON POST and NEWSWEEK magazine. The text of the interview follows:

[Weymouth] Mr. President, your positive response to President George Bush's letter echoed widely all over the United States.

[Al-Asad] This only shows the American people's desire for peace.

[Weymouth] Could you, Mr. President, give us an idea about the contents of the long letter which I understand is 49 pages long.

[Al-Asad] I do not think the number is accurate. The number of pages is actually less than that, and actually, the number is really unimportant. The content, however, is important.

[Weymouth] I know that you, Mr. President, will not reveal everything in this interview. I hope, however, that you will tell me and with the American readers some of the ideas you expressed in that letter.

[Al-Asad] This letter discusses the points in President Bush's letter to Syria. It is a letter in response to President Bush's letter. Naturally, in this case, it will deal with the ideas contained in President Bush's letter. As is known, the two letters discuss peace. President Bush's letter includes a number of points and ideas which, from our point of view, constitute an acceptable minimum and starting point for the peace process and for realizing peace in the region.

The points appearing in the letter are not isolated from earlier discussions, whether with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his numerous visits to the region to discuss peace, or during my meeting with President Bush in Geneva.

During these meetings, expanded discussions and talks took place on what will actually advance the peace process. During these meetings, the United States concentrated on the importance of peace not only in this region, but the whole world.

Naturally, we participated with the United States and all other world countries in estimating the importance of this peace for us and the world. Studies were carried out on what bases this peace can be established. Everyone stressed that this peace must be established on the bases of the UN resolutions regarding this conflict in the region.

[Weymouth] Do you mean Resolutions 242 and 338?

[Al-Asad] Yes.

[Weymouth] I conclude from Your Excellency's remarks that your positive impression about President Bush helped influence your position. Do you feel that he was more ojective and frank with you and less close to Israel than other U.S. presidents?

[Al-Asad] In fact, I did not feel he is less close to Israel, but there are two important matters characterizing our contacts with the United States at this phase. The first is that we have felt that the U.S. Administration...

[Weymouth, interrupting] Do you mean the Bush or the Reagan administration?

[Al-Asad] Actually I am drawing no comparisons.

[Weymouth] Then, are you referring to the contacts which started with the previous administration and continued until the current administration?

[Al-Asad] I am now talking about the contacts that were held between us and the present U.S. Administration, through which we have noticed two important matters. The first is, as I have already indicated, that the points developed by the United States through the discussions and exchange of views with us and others constitute an acceptable basis to advance the peace process. The second issue is that we have noticed the present U.S. Administration is acting on the basis of a serious trend to boost the peace process. We have not felt such seriousness in the past.

These two things are encouraging. They encourage us to exert efforts without feeling that they are in vain or eventually going to be useless. As for love of Israel, this has not decreased under any U.S. Administration.

We are not discussing this problem now. We will not raise with them the issue of love, which is difficult to be logical about all the time.

[Weymouth] I am certain that you realize there is a great deal of speculation about your message to President Bush. The question being posed is: Has the United States given Syria any unilateral guarantees, as reported? And is there an understanding on the Golan Heights?

[Al-Asad] The United States gave no guarantees, but stressed commitment to the UN resolutions which it approved in 1967, 1973, and the eighties.

The United States has positions that it has adopted not only since the present administration came to power: The previous administration stressed its commitment to these resolutions. We want nothing more from anyone.

We ask the United States, the USSR, and the other UN Security Council permanent member states to abide by what they have decided or approved of in the UN resolutions. All these states say that there is no method to achieve peace other than through the UN resolutions.

[Weymouth] Here also you mean Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Al-Asad] Yes.

[Weymouth] Do you mean the restoration of all territories based on these resolutions?

[Al-Asad] This what the UN resolutions stipulate. As you know, both the United Nations and the United States have not recognized any of the measures Israel took on these territories. I also want to say that these positions and resolutions also existed during the previous administrations. The United States did not recognize the annexation of the Golan Heights. It rejected it in the past, just as the other world states did.

[Weymouth] Do you believe that a conference will be convened? You have long experience in the region and you work for peace. So, what results do you expect to emerge from the conference, if it is convened, and what will happen after that?

[Al-Asad] If all the parties are serious and want to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, then we will emerge with a genuine peace. The UN resolutions guide us on how to reach this peace and specify what should be achieved. Therefore, the basic criterion for the seriousness of all parties is a profound commitment to the texts of the UN resolutions. If you are asking about the territories, then peace will not be established while one party is occupying the other party's territory. It is also natural that the occupied territories should be restored to their owners whether they are Syrians, Palestinians, or Lebanese.

[Weymouth] In your opinion, your position helps. Israeli Prime Minister Shamir has described your letter to Bush, when Secretary Baker briefed him on it, as revolutionary in content and spirit; in other words, it was revolutionary in letter and spirit.

[Al-Asad] As I said, this letter contained an agreement on the points agreed on as a basis for the peace process. What I know is that we have been saying we want peace for approximately 20 years. However, maybe, I say maybe, the others used to believe that we were not serious, while they now believe that we are serious. I cannot understand why they used to believe that we were not serious, while they now believe we are. We have always stressed that we call for peace based on UN resolutions. We also stressed the need for an international conference.

[Weymouth] Have you also used the expression international conference in the past?

[Al-Asad] Yes, of course.

[Weymouth] For several years?

[Al-Asad] For approximately 20 years, particularly after the 1973 war, because the October war ended in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 338. In one of its paragraphs, this resolution says that peace must be achieved under appropriate auspices. Based on this resolution, and on this idea in particular, contacts were held between the Arabs and the Americans, and the Soviets and Israelis. It was agreed that the appropriate auspices is a peace conference in Geneva. This issue was approved, and the UN Security Council issued a resolution on holding the Geneva conference. This is why we have always spoken of a conference.

What draws our attention is this difference, this distinction between the conference and negotiations, because it runs contrary to the logic of language, reality, and politics. Any two conflicting parties, or even three or four parties, that decide to hold a conference to establish peace, could not really believe that the conflicting sides would go to a conference of their own free will—in addition to the international efforts—to sit round a table and look at each other and say nothing; or sit round a table and each would turn his back on the other. As long as they have agreed to convene a conference to establish peace, they will sit down to discuss and negotiate; otherwise, how can peace be established. How can we even think that the conference will not have negotiations? What does a conference mean, then?

[Weymouth] You are great, Mr. President. Can anyone imagine that a conference will be convened without negotiations?

[Al-Asad] What would the conference do then?

[Weymouth] You know, Mr. President, the major question is whether you are ready to hold face-to-face negotiations with Israel after the conference is opened.

[Al-Asad] We are going to a conference. Describing the conference and the entire peace process with one word, negotiations, does not go along with the appropriate means for peace and the objective of the peace process. The Israelis pronounce and repeat the word negotiations as though it, and not peace, is the objective. Therefore, the negotiation process, as we understand it, is a discussion held by the delegations within the framework and in committees, based on the UN resolutions, which are the pillars for realizing the peace process. In this context, we said we agreed to the peace conference. This conference will also establish the technical program which must implement peace.

In my opinion, when Israelis talk about negotiations and separate them from the conference, they seek more than one objective, none of which conforms with the objective of peace. On top of what they seek or wish to publicize and realize is that the negotiations should lead to a partial, separate, and non-comprehensive agreement with this or that Arab party. Therefore, they differentiate between the conference and negotiations.

In 1973, the Arabs and the Israelis met in Geneva and initiated a discussion. As I said, no one turned his back on the other, but this conference, for reasons we have no time to discuss now, did not continue, did not accomplish its mission, and did not dissolve itself. Legally, it is still standing because, as I have said, it did not finish its work nor was it dissolved either by itself or by an authoritative world body.

[Weymouth] I am aware of your traditional position and the traditional Israeli position. I am aware that you know quite well, as I do, that this conference will be basically held as an inaugural session. This is what some U.S. officials told me, which means that there will be an inaugural session, then separate negotiations will be held between the disputing parties.

[Al-Asad] Separate negotiations will be held, but this conference will remain standing until peace is established.

[Weymouth] The issue that will be really revolutionary from Israel's standpoint is whether you are planning or seeking to engage in direct negotiations with Israel following the inauguration of the conference.

[Al-Asad] The delegations to the conference will discusses issues that concern them. The Syrian delegation, for example, will discuss the issue of the Golan. Who else will discuss this issue? No one can discuss the issue of Syrian territory other than the Syrians. This is not something new. In the past, when we discussed the peace conference, it was clear that it would be divided technically and that there would be Egyptian, Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian geographical committees to discuss issues relating to their respective countries. The peace process and the final result, however, should lead to a comprehensive solution; that is, peace should be established between the various Arab parties and Israel, otherwise there will be no peace.

[Weymouth] I think it is totally illogical, from our standpoint, to expect Israel to relinquish everything. Your excellency is speaking about the UN resolutions and other things, but we do not expect that Israel would abandon everything. Do you think that Israel would cede Gaza, Jerusalem, the Golan, and the West Bank? Do you think that Israel has any room for maneuvering on the issue of security?

[Al-Asad] Has the international community been unjust when it decided that Israel should relinquish the occupied territories? And does the world map change according to the needs decided by any of the world parties? Assuming that Israel, to guarantee its security, needs territory from Syria, and Syria believes that its security needs some territory from Turkey, and Turkey believes that its security needs some territory from the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union from China, China from India, and the United States from Canada and Mexico, can the world approve of these laws and at the same time maintain a stable world?

Our territories are not at Israel's disposal for it to seize what it believes is necessary for its security. It has occupied lands, and simply by saying that it has occupied them means it has to leave these lands it has occupied. I do not believe that you in the United States accept to reconcile with any country that occupies a part of the United States with the excuse that this part is necessary for the occupier's security. We are like you. We do not accept, are not used to, and do not want to get used to presenting our territories to help others and reassure them that their security is in good shape. There is no peace without land. When the Arabs agree to keep their land occupied, it does not mean that they have made peace or realized it; it means that they have capitulated, and this is not part of our program.

[Weymouth] Hittin ....

[Al-Asad, interrupting] Hittin is a historic event. Hittin is no more than a station in our history. It is not our entire history. I wish to reiterate that at no stage in our history have we capitulated. We might have been overpowered once or twice, but we did not capitulate in the sense that we lost our will to preserve our rights and retrieve them if they are usurped. I believe that any nation must maintain such values. If Israel does not leave the territories, why should we Arabs want peace? In return for what? No nation could ever accept to give up its land in return for anything that might be offered.

[Weymouth] From a personal point of view, and I might be wrong in this, you have seen the public opinion polls in Israel as I have. According to these polls, the majority of Israelis say they support trading land for peace, but in return for real peace.

[Al-Asad] I also say real peace.

[Weymouth] What I know personally is that your excellency the president never violated any agreements, promises, or pledges you took upon yourself. We know this from the agreement on the disengagement of forces which you respect.

[Al-Asad] Therefore, I reiterate that we want real peace. We are not searching for a maneuver. Had we not wanted peace, we would have said that we do not want peace. We are saying that we are serious; this is what we have been repeating for the past 20 years. If I go back to Western and American newspapers, I would find many statements and interviews in which I affirm this meaning again and again. Syria's adherence to the UN resolutions throughout these years is also tangible affirmation of the Syrian will to establish just and comprehensive peace.

[Weymouth] Have you radically changed your stand on Israel? Are you ready to accept as a permanent truth the existence of the Jewish state's political reality?

[Al-Asad] Without delving much into something which is connected to the existing and continuing peace efforts, we can say that Syria supports everything stipulated, demanded, and necessitated by the UN resolutions on peace. These resolutions are the basis for hope.

[Weymouth] Does Your Excellency accept the existence of a Jewish state in the Middle East?

[Al-Asad] This point must be raised at the conference. The parties will go to the conference. This and other issues will be raised in the course of the peace process. If everything were defined during our conversation here,

nothing would be left for the peace conference. As we said, we adhere to a conference and to peace.

[Weymouth] If you do not say that you accept the existence of a Jewish state in the Middle East, can you say that you have drastically changed your attitude toward Israel?

[Al-Asad] We have changed nothing. What should we change? We have called for international legitimacy and we are calling for it now. We call for peace. Is Israel not a party to peace? We say we want peace. As I said, the Israelis may think that in the past we were one thing and now we are something else. We are drawing a line here between what we view as Israeli intentions and the peace process that should take place. We have said in the past and we are now convinced that Israel, as proved by experience, is working for expansion. We hope our doubts prove unfounded. However, this is what they must prove. The doubts we have, or the convictions we have, lead us to believe that Israel wants successive expansion. This conviction does not contradict our effort for peace. If Israel is serious in that, it should remove these doubts.

[Weymouth] How?

[Al-Asad] By halting expansion and abiding by the UN resolutions, which stipulate that it is not permissible to occupy territory by war.

[Weymouth] Will you at some time be ready to sign a peace treaty with Israel?

[Al-Asad] I believe I answered this question when I said that we will respond to all the exigencies and stipulations of the UN resolutions which stress that a peace process must take place. This means that we will respond to the peace requirements.

[Weymouth] Do you believe that President Bush and Secretary Baker can honor their word regarding the U.S. peace efforts in the Middle East? Do you believe that the United States can lead the peace process or lead to the peace process that you envisage? Is President Bush capable of convincing Shamir to attend the conference you agreed to?

[Al-Asad] I am not willing to talk about what President Bush can or cannot do. This matter is up to him and the United states. The United States is a superpower now. It bears a special responsibility toward world peace, given that it is a UN Security Council member state and is committed to UN resolutions. It is a country that has always played a major, important, and basic role in the formulation and endorsement of these resolutions. In addition, it constantly furnishes Israel with political, economic, military, and other forms of aid in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations. The aid the United States is extending to Israel at this stage in particular is enormous. In addition, it is defending it not only politically, but also militarily.

It would be inconceivable if this superpower, in light of all this, cannot tell Israel "come along down the road of peace and cooperate with me, the United States, to implement these resolutions."

The United States gives billions of dollars every year although often, they claim they have economic problems. I heard a statement by Senator Dole in Israel in which he said something to the effect that the United States will be giving Israel all the help it needs to build houses for the new immigrants, and this is while there are many homeless Americans.

You also know that the United States stockpiles arms in Israel. In other words, it does not merely give Israel arms, but stockpiles arms and ammunitions in Israel's depots. We do not even know whether the Israeli land will be sufficient for these arms and ammunition depots.

If the United States as you say, or as the possibility you present; that is the U.S. Administration, and consequently, the way I understand it, the United States, cannot make Israel implement UN resolutions, then the role Israel wants the United States to have will continue to be inappropriate for the United States. Israel, in this case, wants the United States to merely be a depot from which it can ladle out arms and money. I do not know whether the American people accept their role of being a source of money and arms for Israel, which is what Israel wants them to be. I do not believe that the American people can accept this, or that any other people in the world can accept it.

Does this not mean that the United States, apart from what I have already said, wagers its international role on, and links it to the will and decision of 3 million Israeli citizens. This is strange and inconceivable.

[Weymouth] Since I know that you, Mr. President, are an expert on the affairs of the region, could I ask you how strong Saddam Husayn is currently. A month ago, I conducted an inteview with Turkish President Turgut Ozal. He told me that the United States should have kicked Saddam out of power. I am now asking for your opinion. First, how powerful do you think he is? Second, wasn't not getting rid of him a strategic mistake?

Do you share the viewpoint along with many Americans, one of whom is former President Nixon, that the declared goal—the liberation of Kuwait—is much narrower than it should be, and that you, and we, should have dedicated ourselves to putting an end to Saddam's rule in Iraq?

How does your excellency assess the situation in Iraq now?

[Al-Asad] The issue of concern to us Arabs, and most world countries, was that the occupation of Kuwait be removed because it constituted a violation of international norms and laws, as well as our will, the Arabs, and the norms with which we deal with each other in this

historic stage. We believe that a big mistake was committed by the Iraqi regime in occupying Kuwait's territories.

The Iraqi regime has lost a great deal by committing this mistake. At the same time however, it caused great harm to the Arabs. It lost a great deal, and won nothing.

Iraq lost much of its force and economic capabilities. It also lost a great deal in regard to its internal national activities. As is known, Iraqi national unity is not in good shape, and the Iraqi people are in a desperate situation. We, in Syria and the Arab homeland, feel very sad about this. Despite the fact that we are separate countries, we are one nation with one history, language, and heritage, and with the same interests, regardless of the relations between the governments. It is no secret that our relations with the Iraqi regime have been very bad for quite a long time. Nevertheless, we still differentiate between our relations with the Iraqi government and our relations with the Iraqi people.

We believe that the mission was to remove the occupation. What remains to be settled is the particular job of the Iraqi people. I say this after we have been at odds with the Iraqi regime for years.

[Weymouth] Did you give President Bush any advice on entering Baghdad when the war ended and our forces were in southern Iraq?

[Al-Asad] President Bush did not contact me and ask me. Such a conversation did not take place.

[Weymouth] There is currently talk in the United States about President Bush's determination to strike Iraq again because he suspects some nuclear installations exist. Do you agree with this approach, and do you agree that President Bush should deal a second blow?

[Al-Asad] We do not believe that a strike against Iraq is useful, especially since, in this case, this will not only harm Iraq's ruler, but also Iraq's people. I do not want you to interpret my statement as if we want direct action against Iraq's ruler. We do not want to exacerbate the misery of Iraq's people. This does not mean that we support the existence of nuclear weapons in the region. We want to rid the region of weapons of mass destruction, foremost of which are nuclear arms, since that is the most dangerous weapon. The other weapons of mass destruction do not come in second or third place after nuclear weapons, but more toward the bottom of the list. We hope that peace produces a solution to this issue for the entire region.

[Weymouth] There is a rumor in Washington that China has supplied Iran with nuclear installations. Newspapers say that the Chinese built a nuclear reactor in Algeria, and that this poor country has obtained a reactor much bigger than is being used for peaceful purposes. The Chinese have also sold weapons to Pakistan. Here they are selling weapons to Algeria, and maybe to Iran. A U.S. senator asked the secretary of state if a nuclear shipment was sent from China to Iran, but he did not get an answer.

[Al-Asad] I cannot speak on behalf of anyone else. However, in light of my knowledge about these states and the officials in them, I strongly rule out the possibility that China has supplied Iran, Algeria, or others with any nuclear weapons.

[Weymouth] They said a nuclear reactor and not a nuclear weapon.

[Al-Asad] There are several countries in the world that want, for technological reasons and peaceful purposes, to have the minimum knowledge and capability to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes. This issue is not new, since for decades, there have been several Third World states in possession of reactors for research purposes and power plants. There are many Third World states that feel the need to generate power with nuclear reactors. However, the overwhelming majority of Third World states cannot bear the financial burden. I am certain that Algeria is not seeking to obtain a nuclear weapon. If it has an interest in nuclear research, then its objective must be knowledge and the capability for future use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. I emphasize, and in fact am absolutely certain, that Algeria is far from possessing any nuclear weapon.

In my assessment, Iran does not seek to possess a nuclear weapon. Iran did not seek to possess any weapon of mass destruction, even during the war. According to our information, we have nothing to make us believe that Iran seeks to possess nuclear weapons.

[Weymouth] You in Syria have a great deal of weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. media says that Syria spent lavishly on the purchase of weapons to defend itself. Rumors say that Scud missiles have arrived from North Korea. Why do you feel you need all these weapons?

[Al-Asad] First, we have not recently acquired any weapon that we have not had for many years.

Second, regarding these Scud missiles that Western papers wrote a great deal about—we have had them for more than 15 years. The Israelis most certainly know this. However, many journalists may not.

Third, we did not buy weapons with others' money. When we buy, we buy with our own money, as opposed to the Israelis. We buy defensive weapons, while Israel buys offensive weapons through U.S. assistance. This is a fact. It is known that the United States annually allocates $1.8 billion to Israel for expenditures in the military field, in addition to other miscellaneous funds.

Only recently an Israeli official declared before an unofficial U.S. delegation in Israel that the $1.8 billion allocated for Israel must be increased to $2.5 billion

annually. As you know, there is another $1.2 billion in economic aid to Israel. In fact, the aid amounts to much more than that.

Therefore, we are making purchases with our own money, while Israel is buying with others' money. However, regrettably we do not have much money.

Fourth, every nation in the world tries to acquire defensive means to defend its border and territory.

If you draw a comparison between what we spend to acquire defensive means and what Israel spends on the purchase and manufacture of weapons, you will find that the difference is very great.

What I want to assert is that what we spend on defense in general, is less than 20 percent of what Israel spends.

Israel possesses many times as many missiles as we have. This is because Israel does not only import missiles, but also various types of weapons, primarily from the United States. In addition, Israel produces various types of missiles. About two years ago, it tested a sophisticated surface-to-surface missile with a range of 1,500 km in the Mediterranean. Most likely, it has been developed further.

Some time ago, during a visit to several Israeli military installations, the Israeli defense minister stated that Israel recently produced a new weapon to secure superiority over the enemies—by which, of course, he means the Arabs. Moreover, Israel is the only state in the region that possesses nuclear weapons.

As it has so far been revealed, Iraq was attempting to manufacture nuclear weapons, a process which seems to have been in its initial phases. This means that Iraq has no nuclear weapons.

That was a start, and a long time would have been needed to get to a nuclear weapon, if this was the objective, as it was stated. Now, in accordance with UN resolutions, it is assumed that all Iraqi installations have been uncovered. Meanwhile, Israel already possesses a nuclear weapon, and rejects any international inspection. Israel also possesses the weapons that exist in the United States, or has similar ones.

The question you posed should be addressed to the Israelis. You should ask them: Why all these weapons? Why this huge arsenal? Why are you spending all this money? Can anyone who spends all this money and has all these weapons be in favor of peace? Although they have all these weapons, we hope and wish that they will move toward peace. Their weapons, even their nuclear weapons, will never solve the problem. All that could happen is that these weapons might shed more blood.

[Weymouth] The issue of the hostages is a very big issue in the United States. I wonder whether you, Mr. President, believe that this issue is moving toward a solution?

[Al-Asad] I think U.S. officials know that there have been many Syrian efforts in this regard—not only in the recent past, but long before that. We cooperated with many other sides and managed to help many Americans. Previous U.S. administrations have thanked Syria many times.

The American citizens we helped appeared on television and talked about Syria's help to them.

I believe the number of hostages we have helped is greater than the number of hostages still in captivity. We appreciate the importance of this problem and the tragic circumstances of the hostages. We have frequently exchanged views with U.S. officials regarding this issue. The problem now is that such an issue cannot be dealt with by force, because force could lead to the killing of the hostages. Therefore, we resort to the course of action we believe is the best.

Lately, the issue has become more complicated, according to the parties we have contacted many times; but they are not the parties who have directly taken the hostages. The kidnappers are not political parties. They are small groups, but there are those who can influence them.

What has been happening recently is that Israel kidnaps people from Lebanese territories. It kidnapped Shaykh 'Ubayd and hundreds of other people. Israeli soldiers storm Lebanese villages and take hundreds with them back to Israel. Such action has complicated this mission even further.

On this occasion, I wish to say that we and Iran have cooperated honestly and seriously over this issue. However, we have not succeeded in finding a solution to this problem. In spite of this, we are not yet desperate, and will continue our efforts. Irrespective of the political quarters involved, we regard the issue of the hostages as a human tragedy that should be terminated. We will continue to make efforts toward this end.

[Weymouth] Did 'Arafat's decision to ally himself with Saddam Husayn during the Gulf war weaken his influence? And what do you think of him as head of the PLO for the future?

[Al-Asad] We believe that he committed a very grave error in aligning himself with Saddam Husayn and not opposing the invasion of Kuwait. What is important at this stage is to view events comprehensively. We need to establish a comprehensive peace in the region. Peace will solve many issues, including the small issues that takes up much of our efforts and interests. We do not care much about this person. His position was very wrong, and did not serve the issue of Palestine; in fact, he did the opposite.

What we care about has nothing to do with a particular person, because the people of Palestine are under occupation and the Palestine question needs to be solved in a just manner. When one thinks of a just way of solving

this issue, he has to choose one of two options available to him, as is the case for every nation that is going through such circumstances. Either we have honorable elections so that these people can elect their representatives who will look after their interests, or an organization is formed to include all the Palestinian factions, which could speak for these people.

[Weymouth] Therefore, you will not oppose elections, either from inside the PLO or in the occupied Arab territories?

[Al-Asad] No.

[Weymouth] Do you mean by this that the people will elect their representatives from within the PLO or from inside the occupied territories?

[Al-Asad] The people, as a whole will elect their representatives in a free climate. Those elected will be the representatives of the Palestinian people. If this, however, is not an option, then there is the option of the PLO with all the factions of the Palestinian organizations. This is what took place in other world countries. In Algeria, the Algerian Liberation Front was the party that dealt with the French; in other places, elections took place.

[Weymouth] Does this mean that this is an option that can be applied to the PLO?

[Al-Asad] At some point in the past, this idea came up. I do not know exactly whether or not it was acceptable. I speak my opinion, and if they have a better opinion, we welcome it.

If the Palestinian people have another opinion, we will support it. In my opinion, however, they will only have two options, and I am certain that they will accept one of these.

[Weymouth] You know that the issue of terrorism is an important one in the United States. There are allegations that Syria and the al-Biqa' Valley are training grounds for terrorist groups such as ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia], Dev Sol, and an unlimited number of Palestinian factions. Also, Syria is on the list of states that sponsor international terrorism. I ask your excellency if you have achieved any progress with Secretary Baker that could remove Syria's name from this list, and if you reject all forms of terrorism everywhere.

[Al-Asad] The important thing is what is meant by terrorism. If it means committing murder, for example for the sake of killing, blackmail, or fraud, then this is terrorism as we understand it. In this sense, the terrorist is a criminal who intimidates others, or kills them for criminal purposes. This is a terrorist.

However, if your question means those struggling for their freedom, the independence of their countries, and the liberation of their land, then the issue is very different. These are not terrorists. They are strugglers and patriots. This is how they are viewed by all world peoples, including the people of the United States of America.

The lands of the Palestinians, Lebanese, and Syrians are occupied. Will they just sit without doing anything? Will they give up their identity, land, and homes without struggling for them? They are doing what has been done by all colonized peoples.

When Syria came under colonialism, we fought the colonizer by all available means. We had no army or state. The army belonged to the colonizer. We fought with strikes, leaflets, sticks, knives, and stones. Those were our tools at the time. For its part, the colonizer would suppress with rifles, guns, tanks, and aircraft. Perhaps the colonizer thought we were terrorists, and that it had to do what it was doing.

The same thing happened in Algeria and the other Arab countries. Consider the people of the United States. The American people did not attain their independence through prayers. You fought, and you killed others. The American people praised the heroes of the revolution against the colonizers, and they still regard those fighters as heroes, because they fought for the independence of the United States. Our view toward the Palestinian factions in particular and the Arab factions in general falls within this context.

What can we expect from the displaced? What can we expect from those who have been living for long years under occupation? It is difficult to classify them as terrorists. How can we describe them as criminals when they are represented at the United Nations? Condemned acts such as hijacking or downing aircraft, killing people in Europe, and the like have nothing to do with the struggle for peoples' rights; on the contrary, they serve the purposes of the occupiers. If we must fight against the occupier, we must do it directly; we must not fight other peoples in other geographical regions.

Those who live in Lebanon—those whom you meant in your question—want to have a homeland of their own. They want peace; they do not want to continue to live in the diaspora. They may commit violent acts sometimes, but violence does not necessarily mean terrorism. Violence for the sake of national liberation, as mentioned in the examples I gave, is allowed and approved by the UN Charter. Every nation under colonization is entitled to fight against it.

Defending the home and the homeland is a duty that is encouraged by all religions. If we consider resistance against occupation as terrorism, then we will be accusing all world nations of terrorism. Throughout history, most world nations came under colonialism, and all of them fought for their independence. We would be doing them an injustice if we said that resistance is terrorism. Concerning some names you mentioned, I have not heard of them.

We condemn terrorism, and we indeed have fought against it in the past. We have never been lenient with perpetrators of any terrorist act. Many Americans know that we were the target of large-scale terrorist acts in the early eighties. A large number of people in our country were killed without any purpose; and this adds to the intensity of our antagonism toward terrorism.

The United States did not accuse us of terrorism, nor did it tell us: You are terrorists. It accuses Syria of supporting terrorist groups. Sometimes we were accused of supporting a terrorist group responsible for the Lockerbie airplane incident. We asked them for evidence, but they had none. We learned that they found evidence underscoring that neither Syria, nor the group they fingered had anything to do with this incident. They now have evidence that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, which they had been accusing, had nothing to do with the issue, and consequently, Syria had nothing to do with it.

[Weymouth] With regard to Lebanon, are you ready to sign an agreement under which all foreign forces would leave Lebanon? I believe that there is a great deal of talk that the 22 May agreement and the al-Ta'if accord have made Lebanon's independence and existence apart from Syrian influence impossible. Is this true?

[Al-Asad] I can say that in Syria and Lebanon, one people live. We were never separated throughout history. We have one heritage, one language, our songs are one, our jokes are one, and our families are one; almost no family in Syria has no relatives in Lebanon, and vice versa.

Therefore, and because this is the case between us, we fulfilled their request in 1976, and made huge sacrifices that began in 1976 and continue until this day. If these ties did not exist between us, we would not have made such sacrifices for their sake. With regard to interests as understood by the world today, we have no such interests in Lebanon.

What exists between us and Lebanon is a special situation that is acknowledged by us, by the Lebanese, by the Arabs, and by all foreign countries acquainted with the historical situation. Syria and Lebanon must organize their relations to serve their common interests under all circumstances. If a referendum on hostility to or fraternity with Syria were to be held in Lebanon, we would find that the people of Lebanon insist on fraternity, not the opposite.

At various times, we wanted to withdraw from Lebanon—not due to the heavy responsibility we shoulder, but because we sometimes proposed projects for them to agree on between themselves, but some of them did not move, as though they wanted to remain spectators to the killing going on around them. Yet they insistently asked us to remain.

Until we got to the National Charter in which the Lebanese stress the bonds of history and kinship tying Syria and Lebanon. [sentence as received] The National Charter also notes the need to flesh out these historic and brotherly relations and common interests in agreements.

We did not figure in the al-Ta'if agreement. It was an agreement between the Lebanese and the rest of the world, including the Arab states, the United States, the USSR, and France, which supported it.

Our treaty with Lebanon emphasized the country's indpendence. It may have been the first Syrian-Lebanese treaty to emphasize Lebanon's independence. Syria has supported and aided all the measures taken by Lebanon, and the country has made substantial headway in the way of buttressing state authority. The central government has deployed its forces in much of the country. The country now has a nationalist government and institutions that are working smoothly, a Parliament, a council of ministers, and a united army led by one commander and taking orders from a legitimate government. The militias have surrendered their heavy and medium-sized weaponry in compliance with a government decision, and control of public utilities has passed from the militias to the government.

If Lebanon's interests are any guide, then we are gladly supporting a brotherly country which we want to see independent and strong, stable and prosperous. Such has been our conception of Lebanon, and so will it remain. It is inconceivable that Lebanon could ever have relations with Israel comparable to those it has with Syria. That has been the kind of relationship we have maintained since time immemmorial, and which will continue for all time. While we are one people, we can still be two separate states.

[Weymouth] You must have heard the contention by some U.S. media that Syria has grabbed Lebanon.

[Al-Asad] It doesn't make sense, since we don't stand to gain from grabbing Lebanon. Neither do we need to or want to. If only they knew how we regard Lebanon, they would understand that as brothers, we can't possibly harbor such intentions.

[Weymouth] Have the upheavals in the USSR and Eastern Europe had any effect on Syria?

[Al-Asad] These changes had to do with the peoples of these nations. Each people decides for itself what suits it best. We maintained ties with them in various areas, just as with other countries. Initially, the changes may have affected the form of our ties, but only temporarily. Our relations with the USSR are now good, and they are normal with other Socialist countries. Both of us have acclimatized soon enough with the changes. We still maintain relations of friendship and mutual respect with the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist bloc. We continue to respect these countries and appreciate their support for our just causes, and whatever they choose for

themselves has our support. No one should claim custodianship over anyone else. This is the kind of relationship we had in the past. My answer to Western journalists who have frequently asked the nature of our relationship with the Soviets has been that we maintain relations of friendship and mutual respect, with neither side dictating to the other.

Reportage on Lebanese President's Visit

Al-Asad Confers With al-Hirawi

JN2707114691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] At 1045 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

President al-Hirawi arrived at the Syrian border at 1000 today. He was welcomed at Judaydat Yabus by Vice President Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker Qaddurah, and Prime Minister al-Zu'bi. After the reception ceremonies in his honor, President al-Hirawi, along with those present to receive him, left in an official motorcade for Damascus to meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Presidents Discuss Regional Issues

JN2707182391 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] At 1045 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Talks dealt with the general situation in the region and the efforts to push a peace process that would be just and comprehensive.

Talks also dealt with the situation in Lebanon, the course of implementing the national reconciliation charter, and arrangements to spread the authority of the legitimate government throughout Lebanese territories and end the Israeli occupation, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425. They also talked about the relations of brotherhood and cooperation between the two fraternal countries. They were satisfied with developments and with the efforts exerted within the framework of the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination.

Lebanese Delegation Departs

JN2707204491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1904 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 27 July (SANA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi; Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; and 'Umar Karami, the Lebanese prime minister, left Damascus this evening for fraternal Lebanon.

The Lebanese president was seen off at the Syrian-Lebanese border area of Judaydat Yabus by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, and Prime Minister Mamud al-Zu'bi.

TISHRIN Views Israeli Stand on Settlements

JN2707065191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 27 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Settlement Hysteria," the newspaper TISHRIN reviews recent Israeli statements and links them to the continued settlement building in the occupied Arab territories, saying: The intensified settlement fever in the occupied Arab territories incontrovertibly confirms Israel's rejection of peace efforts. Likewise, it also confirms that the Shamir government is creating numerous obstacles and difficulties to evade the requirements of peace and to torpedo political efforts. The motivation is a determination to hold on to the occupied Arab territories. Israel has no intention of giving up these territories. That is why Israel is procrastinating, prevaricating, creating problems, and hamstringing the peace process.

TISHRIN attributes this recently increased intransigence and rejectionism to the clear confusion Israel has fallen into. The paper adds that Israel finds itself disconcerted, uncomfortable, and in a quandary because of the shock the positive Syrian response caused to Israeli policy. The paper goes on to say: Israel is still perplexed as to how to neutralize the effects of this response on its decision. It does not know what to do to remedy the situation created by the fact that its antipeace position has been exposed. This Israeli position, which flouts the resolutions of international legitimacy, reflects a desire to hold on to the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding the editorial, TISHRIN urges the entire world community to put an end to Israeli intransigence and speed up efforts to convene a regional peace conference on the basis of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East ensuring the termination of occupation and the restoration of the occupied Arab lands.

Afghanistan

Rebel Leader Says UN Plan Would Reward USSR

BK2907002291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1749 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 28 (AFP)—The leader of the fundamentalist Afghan resistance Hezb-e Eslami faction blasted the United Nations Afghan peace plan Sunday as a U.S.-inspired attempt to award Soviet control in Afghanistan.

In a speech at a gathering of Afghan religious leaders, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said the United States and the West are conspiring to reward the Soviet Union for abandoning Iraq during the Gulf war. He said the West led by the United States wants to pave the way for "Soviet control and subjugation" in Afghanistan through the United Nations.

Mr. Hekmatyar said Washington had given up its previous insistence on removal of Afghan President Najibollah to pave the way for a settlement of the crisis, adding the U.N. plan "envisages President Najibollah's participation in the peace process." He said the mojahedin would continue to wage its holy war to establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The United States has distanced itself from Mr. Hekmatyar after supporting it with arms and money during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan that ended in February 1989. He is now regarded in American circles as an Islamic extremist and a hurdle in resolving the crisis through political means.

Mr. Hekmatyar accused the United States of working against Islamic movements in every part of the world.

"The U.S. and Soviet Union are allies in an anti-Islamic campaign," he said.

During the recent Gulf war, Mr. Hekmatyar lobbied for Iraq and organized demonstrations in its favour while pro-Western rebels sent a contingent of 300 mojahedin to Saudi Arabia to aid the allies.

Mr. Hekmatyar's speech made no reference to a conference among Pakistan, Iran and mojahedin representatives which is due to begin Monday in Islamabad. There were conflicting indications from mojahedin sources here whether Mr. Hekmatyar's party would take part in the talks co-sponsored by Pakistan Foreign Ministry Secretary General Akram Zaki and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is in Islamabad.

Mojahedin Kill 38 Soldiers in Vardak Province

BK2907041691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops surrounding (Mardan) city, the capital of Vardak Province. Reports say the mujahidin have captured many important Kabul regime positions and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Reports say that 38 Kabul regime troops have been killed and two Kabul regime tanks have been destroyed during the fighting. Seven Kabul regime troops have surrendered to the mojahedin. Five mujahidin have been martyred in the fighting.

Mojahedin Said To Tighten Grip on Herat

BK2707021891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have tightened their noose around the country's third largest city, Herat, and have destroyed many military posts of Kabul regime troops there. Mujahidin are now moving toward Herat on two fronts—from Injeel in the south and from Zendeh Jan in the west.

In another operation mujahidin have occupied the (Pir Paida) military post and seized a considerable quantity of arms. They also destroyed five tanks and armored vehicles and killed 25 Kabul regime troops. Meanwhile, 30 Kabul regime troops along with their arms joined the mujahidin in Pashtun Zarghun.

Kabul Explosions Followed by Power Failures

BK2807044891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Kabul, July 28 (AFP)—Two almost simultaneous blasts echoed through Kabul early Sunday and minutes later parts of the Afghan capital were plunged into darkness.

The two explosions, which shook the uptown area at around 4.00 A.M., were followed by power failures in the districts surrounding the state owned television and radio stations.

There was no official comment on the cause of the two explosions or the subsequent power failures, which came a night after reports of small arms fire in sections of the city.

Rebels Claim Victory Over Rostaq

BK2807125491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 28 (AFP)—The Afghan rebel forces of Ahmed Shah Masood claimed Sunday to have won a new victory in the north of the country by taking the district of Rostaq, in Takhar Province.

The northern council presided over by Mr. Masood, one of the original leaders of Afghanistan's anti-communist guerrilla forces, said in a dispatch that the resistance had captured 1,500 government troops during its capture Friday of Rostaq, about 50 kilometres (31 miles) from the Soviet border.

Mr. Masood, who is affiliated with the islamic Jamiat faction, launched a series of military operations in mid-May with the aim of extending the area under his control in northern and northeastern Afghanistan.

Faizabad, the capital of the province of Badakhshan, may be one of his next objectives, his spokesman said.

Sources Report Najibollah Transfers Close Aide

BK2807112891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Kabul, July 28 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibollah ordered one of his close aides to relinquish the political post he had been holding for the past year and report for duty elsewhere in the government, sources said here Sunday.

Farid Zarif, director of Mr. Najibollah's International Affairs Department since June 1990, was ordered to take charge of a new posting under Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar in a move seen here as a measure of political appeasement.

Mr. Zarif, a former deputy foreign minister and Afghanistan's permanent representative in the United Nations, will take up his new post with "diminished powers" in the premier's office, the sources said.

The Oxford-educated 40-year-old diplomat's removal from the powerful presidential department ends days of speculation that present Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil was pressuring Mr. Najibollah to axe Mr. Zarif.

"He held a cabinet minister's rank in the International Affairs Department and his new posting in Mr. Khaliq Yaar's office does not reduce his status," said a close aide of Mr. Zarif, who is known abroad for an incident in which he scuffled with a mojahedin representative on the U.N. floor some time back.

Mr. Zarif, who headed the Afghan mission in Cuba for two years from 1979, the year of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, was not available for comment, but sources said he fell foul of the powerful lobbies after his department's increased role in the running of Afghan embassies.

There was no official comment on the administrative-cum-political shuffle here, but sources said Mr. Zarif's removal also followed several changes in the country's powerful military.

TV-Radio Journalists Society Elects Leaders

LD2607120291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The second central society of journalists of the radio and television section was formed this morning within the framework of the Union of Journalists of Afghanistan during free, secret, and direct elections in the radio and television [center] of Afghanistan.

A BIA correspondent reports that the meeting, held on this occasion, was attended by Abdullah Shadan, chairman of the Union of Journalists of Afghanistan; said Yaqub Wasiq, general manager of radio and television; and a number of journalists. After the recitation of a few verses from the Holy Koran, Farid Shayan, deputy chairman and secretary of the Central Council of the Union of Journalists of Afghanistan, spoke about the importance and need for the formation of journalists' societies and the journalists went to the ballot boxes and cast their votes in a free and democratic environment.

As a result of these elections ,Abdul Rashid, director of the television information department was elected chairman; Nabi Kawa and Mohammad Esmael Furqi, two journalists of radio and television, were elected deputies in radio and television sections; and another 27 journalists were elected as the executive board of this society.

At the meeting, Abdullah Shadan, chairman of the Union of Journalists of Afghanistan, congratulated the election of the chairman, deputy chairmen, and executive board of the society and wished them great successes in journalistic work. At the end the elected chairman of the Central Society of Journalists of Radio and Television gave thanks for the trust shown by the journalists and pledged not to spare any effort in the defense of the financial and moral rights of journalists and freedom of the press.

Syrian Vice President's News Conference Reported

LD2807043991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 27 Jul 91

[News conference with Syrian Vice President Zuhayr Mashariqah in Kabul on 27 July; Mashariqah in Arabic with superimposed Dari translation—recorded]

[Text] [Mashariq] Dear Friends, journalists, correspondents, representatives of BIA, and other foreign and domestic journalists.

I welcome you to this news conference which is being held on the occasion of my visit to Afghanistan. I will reply to those questions that you passed to me earlier, taking into account the comments that will be mentioned later. I found similar points among the questions that have been passed to me and I have assessed them and given an answer to them.

In order to avoid wasting your time and to come straight to the point, I have answered those questions that were similar to each other. You might find an answer to your questions from my replies. After I have replied to your questions, then, if you want more information and want to ask further questions, I will be happy to explain and reply to your questions. A number of questions are from BAKHTAR and other Afghan journals and newspapers. I will reply to those questions too.

Our friendly visit to Afghanistan, which lasted from 23 to 27 July 1991, was a visit doubled with successes. The talks and negotiations that we carried out took place in an extremely pleasurable and sincere climate. These talks and negotiations covered many issues. They required our joint attention.

That was a reply to the questions on the aim of our visit to Afghanistan.

I have with me a number of questions on the situation in Afghanistan and peaceful trends in this country. These questions are given to us by Afghan newspapers and journals. I want to reply to these questions. The Syrian Arab Republic is in favor of an end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan, implementation of national reconciliation in this country, and the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the country so that Afghan compatriots live in peace and tranquillity, and organize their efforts and forces to build and reconstruct their beautiful country, and to contribute toward the development and progress of their country.

In connection with consolidation and expansion of friendly ties between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic will use all its efforts to establish a durable peace in this country. The Republic of Afghanistan makes efforts in this sphere.

We are fully confident that this will not take long and a durable and firm peace will be restored in this country. The five-point plan by the UN secretary-general will bring about a suitable atmosphere so that actions can be taken for the solution of Afghanistan's problem.

There are other questions concerning the realization of peace in the Persian Gulf. We have received these questions that have been raised by the esteemed Afghan reporters and journalists. In connection to these questions we say: Syria has always supported international accords and has always approved all resolutions issued for the realization of peace between the Arabs and Israel. In particular the two resolutions which are issued in this respect are: UN Resolutions 242 and 338. These two resolutions ask Israel to leave the Arab occupied territories—the territories occupied in 1967—and recognize the righteous and legal rights of the Palestinian people, which include the determination of the destiny of the Palestinian people and the setting up of an independent government and state by the Palestinians. The Arab side has always backed peace and calmness. Syria has a firm desire to achieve this. This was the stance for the realization of the UN and international societies' resolutions. Syria has a desire for the realization of complete and total peace. This is the way [we] interpret these resolutions. However, Israel, in following its expansionist policy and in order to seize other territories from the Euphrates to the Nile, has not and does not agree to peace. Israel has created many difficulties and obstacles on the path to the realization of peace. The best reason for what we say is that Israel does not agree with UN participation whereas the United Nations intends to [convene] this conference.

Sometimes it creates obstacles in the path of the participation of some or a number of European countries. The reason is that these European countries are sympathetic and have a feeling of goodwill toward the Arab countries and Palestinians. And some times it protests that Palestinians should not take part in a peace conference. Many other such obstacles that exist were mentioned. These reasons show that Israel does not have interest in peace and does not want peace.

The answer to this question is finished. I also have a number of other questions with me about the Gulf war and the stance of Syria in this connection. To reply to these questions, I want to say:

Syria did not want what happened in Gulf to happen. However, intervention in Kuwait was an action that was carried out without any consideration to international standards. It was against the Arab community treaty and other international norms and was against the fraternal and neighborliness relations which existed between Kuwait and Iraq.

The esteemed president of Syria used all his means and efforts for the withdrawal of Iraqi regime forces from Kuwait and to distance the Arab regions from destruction. But this incident happened in 1991. What was to happen, happened. It was a great catastrophe. The destruction was widespread and extensive in Kuwait, Iraq, and all Arab regions. Currently, Syria tries to strengthen and consolidate Arab relations aimed at approaching new transformations. Damascus declares: Serious, firm, and steady steps have been taken between Syria, Egypt, and countries of the Arab gulf to implement and consolidate friendly ties.

In connection with a question asked by a correspondent of Radio Moscow in Kabul, who has asked about trade and economic ties between Afghanistan and Syria: We try to strengthen trade and economic ties between Afghanistan and Syria. It should be strengthened in all spheres. It should be carried out in such a manner as to serve the interest of both countries.

These are my answers to the questions that were passed to me.

[Moderator] We express thanks to His Excellency. Now if our friends have any further questions.

[Moscow Radio correspondent] Radio Moscow First Program: can you talk please about the membership of the Republic of Afghanistan in the Islamic Conference Organization? (What is the role) of the Syrian Arab Republic in this issue?

[Masharıqah] Yes, the Republic of Afghanistan is an Islamic country. This Islamic country is a natural member in the collection of Islamic countries. If this

matter has occurred as a result of unprecedented (?reasons), we hope future conferences, in this connection, approve its rights. These unprecedented causes should be removed. Inevitably, Afghanistan will restate its stance among the Islamic countries and will take up its seat.

The Syrian Arab Republic will use all its efforts for Afghanistan to regain its stance.

[Unidentified correspondent] His Excellency Vice President of Syria, In order to accelerate the political process in Afghanistan, in your view, is it necessary that statements be issued by the ICO and the Arab community in support of the recent United Nations statement on Afghanistan?

[Mashariqah] Efforts to prevent bloodshed in Afghanistan and to implement peace in Afghanistan have various forms and shapes. It is not necessary that these efforts be carried out in the form of declarations and interviews. We will carry out our efforts in these spheres, that is the sphere of Arab countries or Islamic countries. We hope that our efforts bring results and success.

[Moderator] Thank you.

Departs for Home

LD2707134891 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] The high-ranking delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic led by His Excellency Zuhayr Mashariqah, state vice president and deputy chairman of the National Front of Syria, left Kabul this morning for Syria after a friendly and official visit to the Republic of Afghanistan.

At Kabul airport the delegation was seen off by Adborrahim Hatef, vice president; Abdol Karim Shadan, chief justice; Abdol Qodus Ghorbandi, chairman of Afghanistan's Peace Council; Sar Mohaqiq Mohammad Sadiq Sailani, minister of Islamic affairs and endowment; Dr. Wadir Safi, minister of civil aviation and tourism; Farid Zarif, head of the International Relations Department of the Presidency; Abdollah Bahar, deputy minister of foreign affairs and Abdol Karim Zairmal, acting head of protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bangladesh

Japanese Firm Held Responsible for Accident

BK2607160791 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The high-powered committee, set up by the government to look into the incident that occurred at Ghorasal urea fertilizer factory, says Bangladesh has lost about 250 crore taka due to this tragic incident. The committee headed by Dr. Iqbal Mahmud of Bangladesh Engineering University has submitted its recommendations in the 82-page report. It may be recalled that 11 experienced officers and employees lost their lives in Ghorasal fertilizer factory and many more were injured in the accident at midnight of 19th of last month. The recommendations pointed out that the Toyo Engineering Corporation of Japan is morally responsible for this accident and tremendous loss of life and property. Maximum compensation must be claimed from them as per contract. The committee recommended that the factory has to be returned to its pre-rehabilitation production level, which was 340,000 tons annually, within four months. It also pointed out that all usual rules and practices were violated in the rehabilitation project of the Ghorasal fertilizer factory at all stages from project preparation to signing of contract with the Toyo Engineering Corporation. The committee recommended that the whole affairs of this factory should serve as a lesson in all our future project proposals and implementation. [passage omitted]

Further on 'Explosion'

OW2707020391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0118 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Dhaka, July 27 KYODO—Bangladesh officials Friday said Japan's Toyo Engineering Corp. (TEC) was responsible for an explosion last month at the Ghorasal fertilizer factory that killed 11 people and that it should pay compensation for the damage.

A three-member inquiry committee formed by the government ruled that substandard workmanship in welding of a pipeline caused the accident.

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan disclosed the findings Friday afternoon at a press conference, and said the exact cause would be known only after a detailed examination of a damaged part, called a stripper, which has been sent to Japan for examination.

Toyo Engineering, which built the factory in 1970, was renovating it to improve daily production to 1,422 tons from 1,137 tons.

Toyo has agreed to restore the factory to its old production process system at its own cost by October, Khan said.

The industries minister said the government plans to ask Toyo to pay compensation for lost production and damaged machinery. He said the accident has cost the country 19 million dollars in annual exports.

Khan said the inquiry board found a number of irregularities in the awarding of the renovation contract and that Toyo had not completely complied with the renovation agreement.

The factory has been the site of several mishaps, including an accident in 1974 that killed five people.

Labor Union Calls Off Transport Strike

BK2907054591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0504 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Dhaka, July 29 (AFP)—Buses and oil tankers returned to the roads here Monday after an opposition labour union called off a lightning two-day stoppage that left many city commuters stranded and petrol pumps dry.

Officials said the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners-Workers Action Committee, an umbrella body of opposition-backed transport unions, decided to call off the stoppage Sunday night after its leaders held a meeting with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed.

The strike was called following a clash Friday over control of an important bus terminal.

Mr. Ahmed reportedly assured union leaders that legal and administrative action would be taken against those responsible for Friday's violence at Dhaka's Sayedabad bus terminal, and that illegal activities by any party or organisation in such terminals would be checked in future.

Both sides signed a document late Sunday ending the stoppage, which had disrupted the capital's bus and other transport services, a communications ministry official said.

Union leaders were unavailable for comment, but witnesses said hundreds of buses, trucks and oil tankers resumed operations early Monday.

Petrol stations throughout the city started removing "no oil" signs as tankers ferried fuel from suburban oil depots and consumers rushed to fill their depleted tanks, witnesses said.

The strike, which also seriously affected road communications with outlying districts, began Saturday after a ruling party-backed workers group wrested control of the Sayedabad terminal from the Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union (SPSU) or Transport Workers Union.

Police immediately rushed to the terminal and evicted the occupants, but the strikers demanded assurances that those responsible would be arrested and punished.

The bus strike was the first stoppage to seriously affect the capital since the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia came to power four months ago.

Constitutional Amendments Presented to Parliament

BK2807164191 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The historic report of the parliamentary select committee on constitution amendment bills has been placed before the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament]. The report, along with the Constitution 11th Amendment bill and the Constitution 12th Amendment bill emphasizing provisions of seven separate bills and changes suggested therein by the select committee, was laid before the house this afternoon by law and justice minister and chairman of the committee, Mirza Gholam Hafiz.

Presenting the report, Mirza Gholam Hafiz said it is a historic document which has been unanimously adopted by the 15-member select committee representing both treasury and opposition benches. The law minister said the document is unique in the annals of political and constitutional development in the country. He said it is the outcome of the efforts and perserverance of the committee. Mirza Gholam Hafiz expressed the hope that this report will pave the way for establishment of rule of law and human rights and ensure equal rights of all. He lauded the contribution of the opposition in strengthening the parliamentary government.

The deputy leader of the house, Professor Badruddoja Chowdhury, said the present government will continue its efforts to make the Parliament sovereign. He expressed his gratitude to the leader of the house, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, and leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, in guiding the nation toward peace, prosperity and welfare of the common man. Expressing similar sentiments, deputy leader of the opposition Abdus Samad Azad said it is indeed a big step toward parliamentary democracy.

Our parliamentary representative says the Constitution 11th Amendment Bill seeks to validate the appointment of and powers exercised by the acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, and to facilitate his return to the post of chief justice.

The Constitution 12th Amendment bill seeks to reintroduce the parliamentary form of government from the present presidential system. The ruling party and the opposition succeeded in resolving differences on a number of contentious issues and reached a consensus through 36 sittings of the select committee. Consensus has been reached on three areas. These are: An MP will lose his membership if he resigns from the party or votes against the decision of the party, induction of ministers from outside the house is to be reduced from the present 20 persons to 10 persons, and the election of the office of the president will be conducted by the Election Commission and procedure of election is to be determined by a separate law. The select committee incorporated one of the four bills moved by Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party in the 12th amendment bill. Mr. Menon's bill provides for amendment of Article 145 of the Constitution to facilitate laying of a treaty connected with national security in a secret session of Parliament.

School Closed After Student Clashes; 100 Injured

BK2707053091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0521 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Dhaka, July 27 (AFP)—A major Bangladesh University has been closed indefinitely amid clashes

between rival student groups as campus violence escalated across the country, sources said Saturday.

The syndicate of the Rajshahi University at an emergency meeting Friday decided to shut the university indefinitely as rival students fought pitched battles to take control of dormitories, they said, adding that some 100 people were injured, some with bullet wounds.

The syndicate, the highest policymaking body of the school, also ordered the students to vacate their dormitories and go home, and most complied, university officials said by telephone Saturday.

"The situation is still very tense," one official said, adding that all examinations had been cancelled.

The first shootout between the student wing of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and opposition student wings was reported Wednesday.

Students alleged that police did not take action, which requires the permission of the university's vice chancellor.

Press reports said activists from both sides used automatic guns during the shootout and set ablaze rooms belonging to rival party members.

According to one newspaper here, Rajshahi University is the 62d school to be shut in four months since Begum Zia came to power in March because of escalating student violence, which mainly has involved the BNP and its arch-rival the Awami League.

Student sources said the situation at the Dhaka University campus was tense and classes were being held irregularly because of sporadic clashes between rival student activists.

The clashes were centered on twice-postponed student union elections, they said.

The elections are considered important for political dominance in the school as well as in other educational institutions across Bangladesh.

Heavy police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles contingents were guarding all entry points of the campus, closed to normal traffic for the past several days.

"A big fight may break out any moment," one student warned.

India

Minister Says 'Flexible' on Foreign Equity Limit

BK2607131491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1251 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Excerpts] New Delhi, July 26 (AFP)—India will allow foreign investors to hold more than 51 per cent of equity in select industrial sectors in a bid to lure firms wanting to quit Hong Kong, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh said Friday. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

The 59-year-old minister said New Delhi hoped this flexible approach would attract greater investment in India and draw to its shores international firms who may leave Hong Kong when the British colony merges with mainland China in 1997.

Mr. Singh sought to allay fears voiced by critics on the possible negative impact the entry of multinationals would have on the growth of the hitherto-protected domestic industry.

Such fears may have been valid 45 years ago when India was a newly independent country, but not now that it has a sizeable industrial base and a new dynamic class of entrepreneurs, the minister said.

"All this foreign-bashing is not good for the morale of the country," he said, adding that such an attitude would be interpreted as a lack of self-confidence.

He cited the example of Singapore, where many multinationals had set up shop but which had maintained its economic independence.

"India is in a different ball game now," he said, noting that even the Soviet Union and China had revised their attitude towards foreign investment.

The finance minister was speaking two days after unveiling the new industrial policy, which in one stroke raised from 40 to 51 per cent the equity foreign investors are allowed to hold in a large number of "priority sectors."

The sectors include 34 areas such as metallurgy, hotels and tourism, electrical equipment and transportation where foreign investors would be given automatic clearance.

The policy reversed 18 years of controls, beginning with a 1973 stipulation that required multinationals to bring down their equity stake to less than 40 per cent, forcing such companies as IBM to quit India.

Mr. Singh, a respected economist who was brought into the cabinet to breathe life into India's ailing economy, said he hoped the new policy would induce potential investors to bring "top class technology" into the country.

Foreign investors have until now been reluctant to bring advanced technology into India as minority shareholders, he said.

He said opening India's huge market to multinationals would make domestic industry more competitive and conscious of cost and quality.

India's business houses and stock markets have welcomed the new industrial policy, which also freed the private sector from stifling controls that have staunched their growth for decades.

Opposition to the reforms has come mainly from political parties, and the powerful left announced Friday a programme of protests beginning August 19 with street demonstrations, picketing and "other forms of struggle."

"The economic sovereignty of the country is endangered due to the open door policy to foreign multinational capital which will adversely affect Indian industry," a joint statement by communist parties said.

Minister on Multinational Investment

BK2607125491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Government will welcome multinational firms with foreign equity beyond 51 percent for investment in select areas. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, told a news conference in New Delih today that a specially-empowered board will be constituted to examines these offers on a case by case basis. Dr. Singh said these multinationals can even have 100 percent foreign equity, provided the entire production is export oriented. The minister of state for industry, Mr. P.J. Kurien, who also addressed the press conference, said the new policy aims at accelerating social change. He asserted that the interest of workers will not be jeopardized.

The Congress-I has welcomed the new industrial policy and said it is in line with the party manifesto. The party spokesman, Mr. C.P. Thakur, however, said an efficient public sector should continue while implementing the disinvestment policy.

Maldivian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Solanki

BK2607150091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] The Maldivian deputy foreign minister, Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, arrived in New Delhi today on a day's visit. Later, he met the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, and discussed the forthcoming SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Colombo. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Indo-Maldivian joint commission before the end of the year. Mr. Solanki and Mr. Zaki also reviewed the bilateral relations between India and Maldives.

Sri Lankan Minister Arrives on Official Visit

BK2707162691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Harold Herath, arrived in New Delhi this evening on a four-day official visit to India. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki.

Minister Says Pakistan Supporting Terrorists

BK2507100491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The fifth round of foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan is scheduled to be held during September in Islamabad. This was announced by the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, in the Lok Sabha today. He said New Delhi will continue to impress upon Islamabad the need to abandon its negative approach toward India and join in the endeavor to establish a good-neighborly and tension-free relationship as envisaged in the Simla agreement. He informed the house during question hour that there is continued evidence of terrorists receiving support from Pakistan.

Reportage on Cauvery Water Dispute

Issue Discussed in Parliament

BK2607162391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs is meeting in New Delhi tomorrow to consider the Cauvery waters dispute, following the promulgation of an ordinance by the Karnataka government.

An official spokesman said the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, met the officials of the Water Resources Ministry, the Law Ministry, and the attorney general this evening and discussed the constitutional aspects of the issue. The prime minister also met the members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Mr. Rao has canceled the scheduled visit to Tamil Nadu tomorrow.

The Karnataka government has issued an ordinance yesterday having overriding effect on the interim order of the Cauvery Waters Tribunal. The order requires the Karnataka government to release 205 TMC [expansion unknown] of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Both the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka today observed a dawn-to-dusk bundh [strike] over the Cauvery water dispute. While the state-sponsored bundh in Tamil Nadu was in protest against Karnataka's refusal to implement the interim order of the tribunal, political parties in Karnatka, including the ruling Congress-I, observed the bundh protesting against the interim order itself. The union territory of Pondicherry also observed a bundh in support of Tamil Nadu's demand. Normal life was affected in all these places with vehicular traffic completely off the road and business establishments closed. Long distance trains and air services were also rescheduled. There is no report of any untoward incident.

The Tamil Nadu chief secretary, Mr. Venkataraman, said in Madras that the state government is examinig the legal implications of the ordinance promulgated by the Karnataka government on the Cauvery waters issue.

Speaking to newsmen in Bangalore, the Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Bangarappa, said notwithstanding the ordinance, the state has the option of taking other actions, including filing a review petition before the Tribunal or approaching the Supreme Court on the matter.

The issue figured in both houses of Parliament also. In the Lok Sabha, members belonging to both the opposition and the ruling parties from the two states indulged in heated exchanges. The National Front and the left party members suggested convening of the interstate council to resolve the issue.

In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairman, Dr. Najma Heptullah, said she will dicuss the issue with leaders in the house and the government. In both the houses, members demanded a statement from the prime minister. Dr. Heptullah informed the Rajya Sabha in the evening that the prime minister will make a statement after gathering facts from the states.

Tamil Nadu Officials Comment

BK2807042491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, has said that by referring the issue of Cauvery Water Dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to the Supreme Court the center is trying to delay the implementation of the interim award of the tribunal in this respect. In a statement issued in Madras last night, she said this is putting the matter in cold storage and it will defeat the purpose of the interim award. The AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] parliamentary party leader, Mr. G. Swaminathan, said the center's decision amounts to application of responsibility and is prejudice to Tamil Nadu's interest. A Congress-I MP from the state, Mr. Era Anwaratu, criticizing the step, said a bad precedent is being set and people will lose faith in tribunals. He demanded that the terms of reference of the advice sought from the court be made public. Miss Jayalalitha said an emergency meeting of the state cabinet will be held this morning to discuss and decide the next course of action. The leader of the opposition in the Karnataka assembly, Mr. D.B. Chandra Gaura, has said that the center is well within its power to seek the Supreme Court's opinion. Reacting to the cabinet committee on political affairs' decision to refer the Cauvery dispute to the president for seeking Supreme Court's opinion, Mr. Chandra Gaura told our Bangalore correspondent that the Supreme Court should give an opportunity to Karnataka for presenting its case.

Dispute To Be Heard by Court

BK2707163091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] The center is to seek the advice of the Supreme Court on the constitutional and other aspects of the Cauvery water dispute. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs considered the issue at its meeting in New Delhi this evening and decided to approach the president to refer the matter to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution. The official spokesman told newsmen that the Supreme Court will be requested to give its advice expeditiously.

In an interim order, the Cauvery Water Tribunal had directed Karnataka government on the 25th of last month to release water from its reservoir so as to ensure availability of 205 TMC of water to the Mettur Reservoir of Tamil Nadu from June to May next year. The Karnataka government has since promulgated an ordinance seeking to nullify the effects of the tribunal's orders. Both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu governments have approached the center on the issue. While Karnataka questioned the validity of the tribunal's interim order, Tamil Nadu represented that it should be construed as a decision and notified. The two states have also witnessed bundh [strike] on the issue yesterday. Our correspondent understands that the rainfall in south interior Karnataka and the Cauvery Basin is much above the normal this year and the flow into Mettur Reservoir is said to be 103 percent of that directed to be ensured by the tribunal. The storage position in the four main reservoirs of Karnataka is reportedly 192 percent of the average of the last seven years, while that in Mettur it is 195 percent for the same period. Our correspondent adds that the proposed reference to the Supreme Court will clear the constitutional status of the Karnataka ordinance and also that of the interim directions of the Cauvery tribunal set up under the Interstate River Waters Dispute Act.

The Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Bangarappa, has said that doors for mutual dialogue with Tamil Nadu on resolving the Cauvery water dispute are open. Addressing a news conference in Bangalore this afternoon, he disclosed that the prime minister spoke to him on phone yesterday about the ordinance. Mr. Bangarappa reiterated that the state government has not stretched beyond the constitutional limits in promulgating the ordinance. The state parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Veerappa Moili, is arriving in Delhi tonight to apprise the center about the full implication of the ordinance.

The prime minister's special emissary, Mr. Dinesh Singh, held discussions with the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss. Jayalalitha, in Madras today. Talking to PTI, Mr. Dinesh Singh said that besides the Cauvery water dispute, relations between the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] and the Congress-I figured in the discussions.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [DMK] has termed as a political gimmick the threat of en masse resignation by members of the Parliament belonging to the Congress-I and All India Anna DMK from Tamil Nadu over the Cauvery water issue. In a statement in Madras, the DMK spokesman alleged that the interim award by the tribunal

is not only being dishonored by the Karnataka government but also by the center which refused to gazette the award.

Tamil Nadu Delegation Meets President

BK2907054091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] The All India Anna DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], which is the ruling party in Tamil Nadu, has urged the president to use his good offices to ensure that the Supreme Court gives its opinion early on the constitutional issue arising out of the Cauvery water dispute. A delegation of the party MPs called on Mr. Venkataraman in New Delhi yesterday evening and expressed concern over non-implementation of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal's interim award. The leader of the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] parliamentary party, Mr. J. Swaminathan, who led the delegation, said that his party had wanted the center to give direction to the Karnataka Government to abide by the interim award. However, now that the matter has been referred to the Supreme Court, efforts should be made to complete the legal process at the earliest.

Leaders of the state units for the Forward Bloc, the Republican Party of India, farmers and [word indistinct] parties, and Tamil Nadu Peasants and Workers Party have criticized the center's decision to refer the issue to the Supreme Court. The union minister of state for labor, Mr. K. Ramamurty, told newsmen in Madras that the center has the right to seek the Supreme Court advice on any matter. He, however, said that the state Congress-I will support all moves to get a fair deal for Tamil Nadu. A senior Congress-I leader, Mr. Dinesh Singh, who had talks with the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, in Madras said the decision of the Karnataka government to promulgate an ordinance in view of the interim award of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal is unfortunate and hasty.

Meanwhile, the union commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, has defended his remarks on the center's decision to refer the issue to the Supreme Court. He said the Tamil Nadu chief minister's criticism against him was based on partial information and without knowledge of full facts. The former Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Birendra Patil, has pleaded that the Cauvery Tribunal's interim order be referred back to it for review. Addressing newsmen at Gulbarga, he said it is not a matter to be taken to the street.

Jailed Militant Pleads for Hostage's Release

BK2907004091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1704 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP)—A jailed top Moslem militant in Kashmir has appealed to colleagues to free a government company executive taken hostage by his group, reports said Sunday.

Other reports said the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) executed three of its militants for a conspiracy to assassinate the group's leaders and Kashmir government officials said some 21 more people died in separatist violence in the state late Saturday and Sunday.

Jailed militant Javed Ahmed Shalla appealed on state television Saturday night for his colleagues to release the official, K. Doraiswamy, "unconditionally and without delay," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Mr. Shalla is the most important of the militants' 10 jailed colleagues, whose release they have demanded in return for freeing Mr. Doraiswamy.

The 58-year-old executive director of the Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) was kidnapped while on a visit to Kashmir on June 28 by activists of the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen, one of several Moslem militant groups fighting for the state's secession.

Mr. Shalla was jailed after being accused of killing the vice chancellor of Kashmir University, his private secretary and the general manager of the state-run Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) company in April 1990.

Meanwhile, three JKLF activists were executed by firing squad for plotting to kill unidentified leaders of their group, a JKLF spokesman said Sunday. This is the first time one of the several militant moslem splinter groups is reported to have executed its own men for indiscipline.

The bodies of the three, identified as Farooq Ahmad, Manzoor Ahmad and Bilal Ahmad, were thrown on the roadside in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

The spokesman, who telephoned reporters in the winter capital of Jammu, did not disclose when the execution took place, but said the decision was taken after trial by the group's supreme council.

Another 18 militants were shot by security forces in Kashmir late Saturday and Sunday, while militants killed three civilians, officials in Jammu said. In one incident, government forest officer Mohammad Ashraf was kidnapped from outside his office in Kupwara District, PTI said.

Militant groups have resorted to kidnapping to secure the freedom of jailed comrades and to focus public attention on their campaign.

More than 2,500 people have been killed in Kashmir since January 1990 in militant violence that India alleges is backed by Pakistan, which also claims sovereignty over the northern border state.

Islamabad says it extends only moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris' right of self-determination.

Youth Congress-I General Secretary Released

BK2907055491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the kidnapped State Youth Congress-I general secretary, Mr. Farooq Hussain, has been freed by the naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] belonging to the People's War Group. He was freed last night in Medak District after the release of two jailed radicals on bail. The state director general of police, Mr. R. Prabhakar Rao, told our Hyderabad correspondent that Mr. Hussain who was kidnapped on Wednesday has returned to his home.

Explosion Kills 2 LTTE 'Militants' in Tamil Nadu

BK2807130891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, two LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants died in an explosion during a raid on their hideout in Coimbatore.

According to police officials, when they were about to enter the house where the militants were hiding this morning, the explosion occurred inside, killing one militant on the spot. Another militant died in the hospital. Some incriminating articles, including one pistol, were recovered from the hideout.

Left Parties Against Economic Policies

BK2607162591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] The left parties have called for a sustained agitation against what they called the wrong policies of the Congress government on the economic front. In a joint statement in New Delhi today, the parties said there will be an intolerable burden on the common man because of the budget proposals. The statement was signed by Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI; Mr. Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc; and Mr. Tridip Chaudhary, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party].

Singh's Plea To Quit Party Rejected

BK2607163191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] The Janata Dal parliamentary party has turned down Mr. V.P. Singh's desire that he be relieved from its leadership. After a meeting of the executive committee of the party in New Delhi this evening, Mr. Raj Mohan Gandhi told newsmen that the members unanimously urged Mr. V.P. Singh not to press his plea.

The meeting also did not accept the resignation of Mr. Harpal Singh Pawar, from the general secretaryship of the parliamentary party. Mr. Pawar, a supporter of Mr. Ajit Singh, had quit his post a few days ago.

The Janata Dal in Maharashtra legislative assembly has split. Nine members of the Dal have quit the party and formed a new party called Maharashtra Congress Dal. This was announced by the speaker, Mr. Madhukar Rao Chaudhary, in the assembly today. He said the newly-formed Maharashtra Congress Dal will be recognized in the house. Mr. Netaji Rajgadkar is the convenor of the new party. The Janata Dal in the Maharashtra assembly had 23 members. The speaker said as more than one third members have quit the party, it is a split in the party and does not invite the provisions of the Antidefection Act.

Seven Militants Killed in Punjab

BK2607160591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, 19 persons, including seven militants, were killed and a portion of a railway track in Patiala District was blown off in separate incidents since last evening. Meanwhile, the 48-hour bundh [strike] call given by some militant organizations and supported by the Akali Dal-Mann and Babbar Akali Dal is reported to have evoked a mixed response.

Poll Candidate Abducted, 15 Killed in Punjab

BK2807162691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, an independent candidate from the Banur assembly constituency, Mr. Gurmeet Singh Nihang, has been kidnapped by the militants. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, he was kidnapped from his house in village Logar in Patiala District last night.

In separate incidents since last evening, two kidnapped persons have been rescued, while 15 persons, including eight militants and one police official, were killed.

Forces Kill 14 Militants, Arrest 47 in Kashmir

BK2807144491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 14 militants were killed and 47 were arrested during searches and encounters by the security forces at different places in the last 24 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered.

Up to 1 Million Tons of Coal To Be Exported

BK2907101691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] The Coal India Limited is to export up to one million tons of coal during 1991-92. Replying to questions in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister of state for coal, Mr. P.S. Sangma, said that a contract has already been signed with Nepal for export of 111,200 tons of coal.

Past Government Criticized on Temple Issue

BK2807094891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, says the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine between Muslims and Hindus in Ayodhya] dispute can be resolved amicably through negotiations. In an interview to PTI [Press Trust of India], he said he did not foresee any hurdle in solving the basic problem. When questioned about the ultimatum of the Sri Ram Karseva Samiti [Voluntary organization to build the temple for Hindu god Ram] and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council], Mr. Singh said everybody is free to express his views, but the government's efforts will be to bring the two communities closer. He criticized the previous governments both at the center and the state saying that they never wanted to solve the issue but tried to keep it alive for narrow political gains.

Government Against Nonresidents' Hostile Takeovers

BK2807090691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The finance minister says the government is against any hostile takeover or destabilization of Indian industries by Nonresident Indians [NRI] despite liberalization of the economy. Dr. Manmohan Singh said in an interview that while the NRI's and multinationals are free to set up new units, they will not be allowed to destabilize existing industrial units. He made it clear that the government wants to attract NRI investment but not at the cost of stability of existing Indian ventures. Dr. Singh said the intention of the government is to subject Indian industries to more foreign competition. The finance minister disclosed that Japanese entrepreneurs, who are willing to invest up to two billion dollars, would be allowed to set up townships in India. NRI's can also establish industrial areas on the pattern of the Silicon Valley in the United States, he added.

Defense Minister Tells Troops To Be More Vigilant

BK2807131091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has asked the troops to be more vigilant, as they have to shoulder the added responsibility of internal defense in view of the growing terrorist and separatist activities. Mr. Pawar was addressing the troops at Jaipur today at the end of his two-day tour of Rajasthan. The defense minister said the modern warfare scenario emphasizes the quality of armed forces more than quantity. He said the morale of our troops is very high and they are in a position to face any challenge both internal and external.

Iran

Karrubi Urges Expansion of Ties With France

LD2807174391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] A group of deputies from France's National Assembly, who arrived in Iran last night, met today with Mr. Karrubi, Speaker of the Islamic Majles.

The meeting began with Mr. Devedjian, Head of the Franco-Iranian Parliamentary Friendship Group, emphasizing in the course of his remarks the expansion of parliamentary cooperation betweeen Iran and France. The Speaker of the Islamic Majles then referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in expanding relations with European countries, notably with France. He noted that this would benefit regional countries considering Europe's special relations with the Persian Gulf region and Iran's special position in the region. Mr. Karrubi thought that the formation of parliamentary friendship groups between Iran and France was an obvious sign of the restoration of relations between the two countries. He said: Efforts should be made to direct public opinion in countries toward friendships.

At the end of this meeting, the Franco-Iranian Parliamentary Friendship Group visited the Islamic Majles and became more informed at close-range about legislative procedures in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Denies Talks With Reagan Campaign

LD2807110191 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 28 July, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi here Sunday categorically denied any involvement in any negotiations concerning the release of the American hostages held in Iran for 444 days.

Speaking to IRNA, Karrubi rejected allegations that the Islamic Republic authorities had been engaged in negotiations with the election campaign headquarters of the former American President Ronald Reagan.

"During the time that the U.S. spies were held in Iran, I did not serve in any political capacity," the Majles speaker reiterated.

On reports in certain U.S. media alleging that Karrubi conducted negotiations with Americans in France and Spain, the Majles speaker stressed, "I had not travelled abroad since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution until early Iranian calender year 1361 (started 21 March 1982). My first trip abroad was to Lebanon and Syria in early 1361 and [I] have never visited France or Spain."

He further said that both Democrats and Republicans in America are proponents of Zionists and supporters of the plundering capitalists, though they have differing

views toward certain issues. Therefore, the Hojjat ol-Eslam continued, there is no reason for the Islamic Republic of Iran to launch parties to power.

Habibi Comments on Ties With Iraq, Refugees

LD2907104191 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 29 July, IRNA—Tehran welcomes any Iraqi move towards promotion of relations with Iran, said First Vice-President Hasan Habibi in his weekly press conference here Monday.

Tehran-Baghdad relations have never been totally severed despite the emergence of various difficulties in bilateral relations and the two countries are having ties at charge d'affaires level, said Habibi who is also the government spokesman.

Habibi also reiterated that the government in a bid to improve the administrative management, plans to keep managers in their post for a long period of time. Furthermore, he added, it is to cut down unnecessary and excess expenses, stop the red tape procedure and adjust the number of government employees.

He singled out the increasing private use of government cars and holding of international congresses and seminars which are highly costly for the government. Such gatherings must be held only with prior knowledge of the president at the lowest possible cost.

On the impact of the refugees on the growth rate of the country's population and the government's plan to stop uncontrolled migration, he said that in light of the country's difficulties the government is to take measures in this respect. Presently, Habibi added, efforts must be made to reduce the number of the refugees in the country and to encourge them to return to their homeland.

On cultural issues of the country, Habibi said that cultural activities have been moving on the right track and are heading in the right direction. He added that the cultural issues are highly diverse and complicated demanding careful attention.

He warned against prejudiced attitude in dealing with cultural matters and stressed that the Islamic teachings, the late Imam Khomeyni's guidelines and the advice of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i must govern the cultural issues. He underlined that ballyhooing on cultural issues must be avoided.

Western Forces, Palestinian 'Compromise' Rejected

LD2707171691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council met this evening under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the meeting, anxiety was expressed about the difficulties and bans imposed by the Iraqi regime on the performance of religious rites and mourning during the Moharram period [Shiite mourning for Imam Hoseyn's martyrdom], the renewed killing of the Kurdish people, and the renewed homelessness of tens of thousands of them.

In the meeting, the issue of the establishment of a multinational Western force and its deployment in Turkey was also raised. It was announced to be unacceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was stressed that the increase in foreign forces will in no way assist regional security.

The Supreme National Security Council also announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is gravely concerned about the dangerous and compromising developments regarding occupied Palestine. It believes that the establishment of a joint conference with the usurper Israeli Government is solely to that regime's advantage and will achieve nothing as far as the interests of the oppressed Palestinian nation is concerned, because the Zionist regime has proved during the past four decades that it does not adhere to any humanitarian or international regulations in its chosen path of aggression and expansionism. No government has the right to strike bargains over the right of the Palestinian nation, especially over Bayt al-Moqaddas [Jerusalem], which is the first qiblah [direction in which Muslims pray] for Muslims. Any kind of compromise will arouse the rage of the world of Islam, and Muslim nations will not accept this disgrace. The Muslim people of the region, especially, will not allow their governments to establish politico-economic ties with usurper Israel.

Papers Castigate Compromise With Israel

LD2807102991 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 28 July, IRNA—Two morning newspapers Sunday castigated reactionary Arab regimes in the Middle East for their compromise with the U.S. to further stabilize the Zionist regime.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial titled "Zionist Threat and Mission of Muslim Ummah" regretted the increased submission of the reactionary Arab heads of state and warned that "the outlook for future seems even more humiliating."

The article denounced the recent moves by the Arab world in opening up its markets to the Zionist regime in a futile attempt to encourage the Zionists to abandon establishment of new Jewish settlements.

"The threat is serious," wrote the daily noting that there is the fear that the region would be surrendered to the Zionist regime forever.

It stressed that acceptance of any accord which will entail the disgraceful recognition of the Zionist regime and its domination over the Islamic lands "is a stab in the heart of the whole Muslim world."

"Hegemony and usurpation" is the philosophy behind the existence of Israel, a philosophy which will continue to remain in forces until it achieves its objective—Greater Israel from Nile to the Euphrates, said the daily.

The incompetent Arab heads of state may justify their moves by reasoning that they could not stand against the Zionist regime but, "by no means they are allowed to surrender Muslim lands to Israel," the article said.

Therefore, it concluded, the same Arab nations who have so far stood against treason of the arab reactionaries, will once again come to the scene to foil the new plot.

Editorializing on the same subject, ABRAR praised Iran's stance in rejecting any compromise over the Palestinian issue, adding "Muslim people of the region will not allow their governments to establish political and economic ties with Israel."

The U.S., the daily noted, by masterminding the Persian Gulf crisis has managed to terrify the regional governments but failed to suppress Muslims in this part of the world.

"To this end, Washington has stationed its rapid deployment forces in Turkey with the aim to suppress the Islamic movements and create a state of terror among Muslims," wrote the article.

It noted that under the status quo, if regional countries are deceived by America's political tricks, no doubt they will be the main losers.

"Therefore", the article concluded, "struggle in the occupied territories and an all-out support of Muslims for the Palestinians is the only solution to the Palestinian issue."

Paper Warns Against Factional 'Confrontation'

LD2707125891 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 27 July, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial Saturday commented on a report carried by an afternoon newspaper last Thursday and noted that such articles will open up a new phase of confrontation between the two factions in connection with the next Majles elections.

"Is it wise and rational, under the status quo when Iran is the focal point of the islamic movements in the world and is the target of plots of the U.S. and its collaborators, to see revolutionary forces standing against one another?" The article argued.

The editorial said instead of becoming engaged in such issues, all should be mobilized to encounter efforts which are underway for recognition of the usurper Zionist regime by the Islamic governments with the next step being materialization of the slogan "Greater Israel, from Nile to Euphrates."

The paper stressed, "Economic and social problems of the country are of such proportion that they will not be resolved except through an all-out effort by all groups and factions."

In the coming months the region will go through one of its crucial junctures. Therefore, peaceful cooperation of all factions in Iran is a must and any measure to the contrary is against the interests of Islam and Iranian people, the article noted.

The paper said all the hatred must be directed against the U.S. And all pens must be employed against the ever-increasing threats of the cancerous tumor—the Zionist regime.

Daily Rebuts Nuclear Energy Program Allegations

NC2607142791 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 17 Jul 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "America Is Targetting Iran's Reconstruction"]

[Text] The era of economic reconstruction is starting at a time when the need to expand basic industries and to overcome problems stemming from the imposed war era is a special priority.

Each country has the right to find ways to reach its major and basic needs in its development programs that will, in the long run, overcome the problems faced by its lateral industries. And to do so, it needs to achieve technological development in its "mother" industries.

One of the industrial projects which should be continued at this phase concerns energy, which is needed to supply other industries.

Energy supply is a vital need in the country's Five-Year Plan. Some of the energy supply projects have been completed according to agreements and payment for them made to the contracting countries.

In light of the new process in international relations, the propaganda by world arrogance has taken on a special nature in recent weeks and is trying to overshadow the implementation of Iran's industrial programs by speaking of the possibility of nuclear arms production by Iran.

At a time when people are talking about world disarmament and Saddam is making headlines for misusing nuclear projects, the plan for the reconstruction of Iran's nuclear projects is being described as a military plot.

For a nuclear power plant to become operational for manufacturing nuclear weapons, it must have specialized technology which cannot be purchased like any other commodity in any market. And if UN inspectors are today carrying out a house-to-house search in Iraq for nuclear weapons plants, this is merely on the orders of those who exported these facilities to Iraq and who are well aware of how much of it they placed at Iraq's disposal during the eighties.

America and the multinational forces pursued and continue to pursue one objective in the attack against Iraq, and that is to ensure their continued presence in the region and to dominate the oil market.

Where did Iraq gain whatever it now has to produce chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons? From the free market?

German industries gave Iraq the equipment to manufacture chemical weapons.

America and Europe armed Iraq to the teeth with advanced weaponry to confront the newly emerged Islamic Revolution in Iran and to commit aggression against the Islamic Republic. The allied forces placed at Baghdad's disposal the technology to manufacture the most destructive weapons, namely nuclear weapons.

During the [Iran-Iraq] war, the Islamic Republic of Iran was the world's loneliest and most oppressed country, paying for its freedom and independence through an unequal and imposed war with the world's major powers.

The East and West closed all the arms markets and even the free markets to Iran. But Iran established its epic resistance with what it had and what it could pick up here and there.

Which country gave Iran the equipment and technology with which it is now allegedly "trying to gain access to nuclear industries in order to manufacture arms?"

Does the fact that Iran needs energy to accelerate its reconstruction mean that it is trying to manufacture nuclear arms?

This time the arrogants apparently intend to foil Iran's reconstruction plans, and have to this end sparked off extensive propaganda in the political and economic fields.

Majles Discusses Bill on Election Candidates

LD2807191291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Excerpt] In today's open session of the Majles, chaired by Mr. Karrubi, the bill to reform the administrative organization and regulations governing the employment of the members and staff of the central headquarters of the seven-member land allocation teams was passed in the second reading. [passage omitted]

At this session also the legal draft-bill on appending the single article to the election laws which was returned by the Council of Guardians was passed by the deputies. The legal draft bill for the endorsement of the number of election candidates which was returned by the Council of Guardians was also discussed by the session but was not ratified.

*Government Reportedly Turns to USSR For Arms

91AS1158A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 91 p 7

[Article: "Iran Rebuilds Its Air Force in Cooperation With the USSR and Incorporates Iraqi Aircraft Which Sought Refuge in Its Territories During Gulf War"]

[Excerpt] London—Military Editor's Dispatch—Iranian sources have told AL-HAYAH that Iranian Air Force Commander General Mansur Sattari's recent visit to the Soviet Union will have an "extremely significant impact on the future of the Iranian Air Force and on the shape this force will take in the next several years."

The sources have said that this is due to a conviction which the Iranian leadership developed in recent weeks and on whose basis Gen. Sattari has made his visit to Moscow. This conviction is to the effect that "it is futile for Iran to wait to rebuild its air forces through weapons acquired from the West. Therefore, it has become necessary for Tehran to rely on the Soviet Union to start this process." [passage omitted]

Unrealized Aspirations

The Iranian sources say that in recent months, especially during the gulf crisis and the period immediately following it, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government attached great hopes to the possibility that its political rapprochement with the Western countries will open the door for it anew to embark on a military cooperation that enables it to rebuild its armed forces, especially its air force, on the basis of restoring and rehabilitating the U.S.-made fighter planes still in its possession. The Iranian leadership also hoped that this process would take place concurrently with a parallel process in which Iran would at least get some of its military needs from the Soviet Union and Eastern countries, such as China, to whom Iran has been tied since the years of the war with Iraq by a close military cooperation that has led to supplying the Iranian forces with considerable amounts of weapons and equipment, such as tanks, armored vehicles, artillery, missiles and munitions, in addition to a small number of fighter planes of the (Jian) F-6 (a Chinese version of the old Soviet-made Mig-19 fighter plane) and the Jian-7 (a Chinese version of the Mig-21 fighter plane).

A few months ago, the Iranian Air Force began to receive 14 sophisticated Soviet-made Mig-29 fighter planes which are considered the first effective fighter plane Iran has acquired since creation of the republic. This acquisition is in accordance with a deal which the two sides concluded last year and which includes tanks, antiaircraft missiles, and other varied equipment.

Turning to Soviet Union

But the Iranian sources say now Gen. Sattari's visit has taken place on the basis of obvious Iranian determination to completely disregard the possibility of resumed

serious military cooperation between Tehran and the West, at least in the foreseeable future. Consequently, it has been determined to focus the Iranian effort to rebuild the air force by relying on the Soviet Union.

These sources add that the list of Iranian aircraft requests includes primarily more Mig-29 fighter planes which are considered the Soviet counterpart of the U.S.-made F-16 Falcon and F-18 Hornet and the French-made Mirage-2000. The list also includes long-range strategic assault fighter planes of the Sukhoi-24 type to which the only parallel in the West now is the U.S.-made F-111 fighter plane and the European Tornado fighter plane. The same sources also point out that Iran shows interest in acquiring a number of Mig-31 planes which are long-range interceptor-pursuer aircraft. Moscow displayed this plane publicly for the first time at the Paris Aircraft Industries Show, held in Le Bourget, near the French capital, last June.

Iranian sources expect the Iranian requests to include about 48 more Mig-29 fighter planes, nearly 24 Sukhoi-24 fighters, and a similar number of Mig-31 fighter planes in a deal whose total value may, in case the Soviet side agrees to all its articles, amount to nearly $6 billion.

According to these sources, what is more important is Iran's determination to take advantage in its programs to rebuild its air forces incorporating the Iraqi aircraft which took refuge in Iranian airports during the recent gulf war. It is certain that Iran plans to keep most of these aircraft.

Incorporating Iraqi Aircraft

It is well known in this regard that Iran acknowledges the landing of only 22 Iraqi aircraft in its territories and these are the aircraft likely to be returned to Iraq, according to official Iranian statements. Even this small number will not be returned until the well-known Iranian conditions are met, most significantly the conclusion of a permanent peace treaty with Baghdad and the latter's agreement to pay war reparations to the Iranian side. As for the remaining aircraft, available information indicates that Tehran began a few weeks ago to paint them with the colors and insignia of the Iranian Air Force in preparation for entering them into actual service in this force.

Official Iraqi figures with which the estimates of western sources agree indicate that a total of 148 planes sought refuge in Iran during the war with the coalition countries, including 33 transport planes and 115 fighter planes. The latter include 24 Sukhoi-24 assault fighters, seven Sukhoi-25 planes, 44 Sukhoi-22 assault fighter planes, four Mig-27 assault fighter planes, five multi-purpose Mig-23 fighter planes, four multi-purpose Mig-29 fighter planes, and 24 multi-purpose Mirage F-1 fighter planes. The transport planes include 15 (Illution)-76 heavy military transport planes and one AWACS of the 'Adnan type. The civilian transport planes belong mainly to the Kuwaiti Airlines. Iraq seized them when it invaded Kuwait.

The sources point out that Iran will urgently require Soviet support to get all the spareparts, equipment, and munitions it needs to operate the Iraqi aircraft and enter them into actual service. They add that it is very unlikely that Moscow will agree to supply Iran directly with what it needs in this area in a manner that enables it to use these aircraft. But what can be agreed upon in this regard, according to the same sources, is to have "Soviet approval to supply Iran with extra spareparts and munitions attached to the new aircraft deal on which the two countries are likely to agree." This will enable the Iranian Air Force to use this equipment to maintain the new aircraft that will be acquired and to operate and maintain the Iraqi aircraft that it has added to its ranks. What this means is that the Iranian Air Force will consist in coming years of 200 military aircraft which include most sophisticated Soviet interceptors and fighters which compare favorably with their Western counterparts and will, in any case, constitute a major regional air force that cannot but have a fundamental strategic influence in the future.

Army Air Corps Commander Outlines Plans

NC2907070491 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] Mashhad—Under plans approved by the commander in chief, new air bases will be constructed in various parts of the country.

Other plans are also being drawn up to strengthen the Army air corps' combat readiness through the purchase of new helicopters.

Brigadier General Mohammad Ansari, commander of the Islamic Republic's Army air corps, announced these measures during a meeting with reporters in Mashhad.

On the plans to set up new bases for the Army air corps base, he said: It has been decided that the new base to be established in the east of the country will be built in Mashhad.

Stressing the active role played by this corps since the victory of the revolution, especially during the imposed war, Brig. Gen. Ansari added: The Army air corps' combat readiness will be strengthened through the purchase of new helicopters over the next 10 years.

Noting that agreements had been signed with Italy to expand Iran's helicopter fleet, the Army air corps commander stated: The Italian Government fell behind schedule in its deliveries of helicopters and spare parts. Thanks to the efforts of the Foreign and Defense Ministries, the two countries have reached new agreements on supplying spare parts for Iranian helicopters.

Brig. Gen. Ansari also discussed the Army air corps' plans to achieve self-sufficiency, noting: Our personnel have attained a high level of technical expertise as a result of their experiences during the war.

In this connection, he announced that the corps' personnel will carry out all repairs to their helicopters in the near future.

He also noted that the corps is now training its own pilots and said it would be willing to provide such training to pilots from other countries.

Pointing out that the training center in Esfahan is the largest in the Middle East, he stated: Should our country's officials so desire, the Army air corps is ready to conduct training courses for pilots from other countries in line with internationally accepted standards.

Brig. Gen. Ansari concluded by stressing the corps' active participation in the war, various relief operations, and other areas, and said: At the moment, the Army air corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran is working with other forces to suppress insurgents and smugglers in all parts of the country.

Our correspondent also reports that Army air corps base commanders have held a four-day conference to discuss personnel, logistical, and operational matters. The conference also decided that the new base should be built in Mashhad.

Correction to Habibi News Conference

NC2507150791

Further monitoring of First Vice President Hasan Habibi's 23 July news conference, which appeared on pp 46 and 47 of the 25 July Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, enables the following clarifications of the last four paragraphs:

[Habibi] The truth is that we have two or three regulations which cannot fall under the term contribution, which is what the municipality collects from people—very openly, as the mayor has direct links with the people—and this issue has been raised. The fact is that the municipality has certain laws which were not being implemented in the past, but which the mayor is now implementing. For example, when the work-completion certificates had to be obtained in the past, all the angles and specifications of the structure were not inspected by the ministry. Sometimes two extra rooms had been constructed or a basement had been included; sometimes a room had been turned into a store. In any case, probably a smaller amount was taken in the past. The municipality is implementing the law. Moreover, the authorities are being treated in the same way as other people by the municipality when it comes to obtaining work-completion certificates on public buildings. [passage omitted] To obtain our work-completion certificates then, the municipality should be able to collect some dues in accordance with its own rules. [passage omitted] In any case, if the term contribution exists, it is an illegal term, but if the municipality is implementing the law, well then, it is legal.

[Correspondent] What about the issue of the undesirable consequences?

[Habibi] Now, I do not know if this has desirable consequences—this has to be studied. But to some extent, this is mostly affecting those who have money and who complain that they are being charged at a high rate. [passage omitted]

I think that, in any case, these wealthy people who are increasing their facilities, should pay for the improvements to the city. (clearing querried words, rewording)

Pakistan

Reportage on Iranian Foreign Minister's Talks

Velayati Expects 'Good' Peace Talks

BK2807142291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Islamabad, July 28 (AFP)—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Sunday for Afghan peace talks with Pakistan and mojahedin resistance leaders, saying he hoped the conference would yield "good" results.

A delegation representing Teheran-based shiite mojahedin groups flew in with him for the two-day conference to be attended also by sunni rebel leaders operating from Pakistan, Iranian and Pakistani sources said.

Officials here said the conference would open Monday at the Pakistani Foreign Office.

"We hope that our joint efforts will be beneficial for the region and the Islamic Umma (nation)," Mr. Velayati told reporters.

The foreign minister said the meeting was being held in the light of the U.N. peace plan announced by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on May 21.

The plan calls for intra-Afghan dialogue for a transitional arrangement leading to elections and a broad-based government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati, who is accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Alauddin Brojardi and senior officials, said he expected a "good and positive" outcome from the Islamabad meeting.

He said Iran had considered the U.N. proposals which contained "positive points," adding that some other governments in the region also welcomed the plan.

Mr. Velayati said his country welcomed the continuation of the efforts by the U.N. secretary general's representative, Benon Sevan, for a political settlement of the Afghan crisis.

During his three-day stay, Mr. Velayati is to hold bilateral discussions with Foreign Ministry Secretary General

Akram Zaki and meet with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, officials said.

A Foreign Office spokesman here said Mr. Velayati's visit was aimed at evolving a "common approach" on finding a political solution to the 13-year old Afghan civil war that has cost more than one million lives. [passage omitted]

Velayati Discusses Afghan Issue

LD2907083891 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 29, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met personal representative of the U.N. Secretary general in Afghanistan affairs, Benon V. Sevan, at the Iranian Embassy here Monday.

Sevan briefed Velayati on the latest developments in Afghanistan issue and the U.N. efforts in finding a political solution to the issue within the framework of the U.N. secretary general's plan which was put forward two months ago.

Velayati arrived here at the head of a political delegation Sunday to chair a three-day quadrilateral meeting of Iran, Pakistan and leaders of the Afghan mujahidin based in Tehran and Peshawar.

While in Pakistan, the Iranian minister is to hold talks with senior Pakistani officials and discuss the Afghan issue and matters of mutual interest.

Velayati Received Before Talks

LD2907101891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is currently visiting Pakistan, met and conferred with Pakistan's president Ghulam Ishaq Khan before noon today. The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad: President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Pakistan's president. Afghan issues were also discussed at the meeting.

The minister of foreign affairs will participate in the quadrilateral session on resolving the Afghan issue, to be held in Islamabad this afternoon. The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Iran, and representatives of the Afghan mujahidin groups based in the two countries are taking part. The formation of a delegation comprising representatives from various Afghan groups will be deliberated. Also at today's session, the nature of the future Afghan government, the means of holding elections by that government, and the five- point proposal of the UN secretary-general will be examined.

'Four-Sided' Talks on Afghan Issue 'Important'

LD2807160691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The four-sided session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and the representatives of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and the Afghan Muslim Mujahidin based in Pakistan, to review ways of solving the Afghanistan problem in a just manner, will be staged today in Islamabad. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad.

[Correspondent] Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon at the head of a high-ranking delegation of Foreign Ministry officials and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan to particiapte in the four-sided session . He was welcomed by Mr. Akram Zaki, minister of state for foreign affairs of Pakistan. The four-sided session is being staged at the suggestion of Iran to overcome the existing stagnation and impasse concerning the Afghanistan question. [passage omitted].

The agenda of the session includes: ways of overcoming the existing impasse in solving the Afghanistan problem; the formation of a nucleus made up of representatives of different Afghan groups aimed at planning the nature of the interim government; and the elections to be staged by that government. These sessions will also discuss the proposal advanced by the UN secretary-general concerning Afghanistan.

It is said that the ultimate aim of this session is to arrive at a correct and just solution to the Afghanistan problem which will be in the interest of the people of that country. Political observers believe that this session is especially important in that it precedes the forthcoming meeting of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the interim government of Afghanistan, recently welcomed Iran's proposal for the convening of a quadripartite meeting, describing this as a last chance for the Mujahidin.

Alleged Indian Shelling Kills 5 in Azad Kashmir

BK2807164991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, July 28 (AFP)—At least five people died and 11 were injured when Indian troops allegedly shelled villages on the Pakistani side of the border Saturday, residents said.

They said shelling lasted for four hours and that people started leaving the border area after the incident with their livestock and other belongings.

Amid tension between Pakistan and India over Kashmir, the premier-designate of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum, said Sunday that India had "intensifed unprovoked shelling" across the control line.

"Indian attacks have taken lives of innocent civilians," Mr. Qayyum Khan said without giving the toll.

He warned that if India imposed a war on Pakistan, it would suffer heavily.

Outgoing Pakistani Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg also warned a few days ago that India could attack this country after having failed to "suppress" the "freedom movement" in its only Moslem majority state.

More than 1,500 people have died in Indian-held Kashmir since early last year in violence linked to a militant Moslem separatist campaign.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants, but Islamabad says it only extends them political and moral support.

Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has supported Gen. Beg's apprehension, [word indistinct] the Foreign Office for saying there is no cause for alarm.

Qayyum Khan Elected Legislative Assembly Leader

BK2907090991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] legislative assembly, at its session in Muzaffarabad today elected Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan as the leader of the house. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan has been president of the AJK for four different terms. While this time, his party, the AJK Muslim Conference after (?securing) landslide victory decided to elect him as the leader of the house.

In their brief statement after his election as AJK prime minister, the members of the house assured him of their full support for the sacred cause of liberation of held Kashmir.

Earlier, Mr. Abdul Rashid Abbasi was elected speaker and Raja Mohammad Siddique, deputy speaker of the legislative assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Later, they took oath of their offices.

In the morning, 39 newly-elected members of the assembly took oath of their offices. A member of the assembly, (Raja Gul Karnail Khan), nominated by the president administered the oath.

Opposition Party Criticizes Nuclear Policy

BK2707162891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] In Pakistan, the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] has criticized the nuclear policy pursued by the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad government and called for a wider regional perspective to the issue. The central coordination committee of the PDA, which met in Islamabad yesterday, under the chairmanship of former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, described as childish the Pakistani premier, Mr. Nawaz Sharif's pledge during last elections that he would detonate a nuclear bomb if brought to power. The PDA said the remedy of the nuclear problem lies in seeking a wider regional solution.

Finance Minister Denies BCCI Money Laundering

BK2607165091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 26 (AFP)—Pakistan Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz denied remarks attributed to him by THE FINANCIAL TIMES that The Bank of Credit and Commerce was used to launder drug money in Pakistan.

In a statement released late Thursday by Islamabad authorities, Mr. Aziz said THE FINANCIAL TIMES had reported his remarks incorrectly because he "was referring to global drug money laundering and not to laundering of such money by banks in Pakistan."

"Drug money or crime money is generally lodged in strong financial centers of the world rather than in developing countries like Pakistan, because of greater security and more stable exchange rates," he said.

The London daily's Thursday edition also quoted Mr. Aziz as saying that the bank's Pakistan subsidiaries were used by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to channel covert aid to the Afghan resistance movement. Mr. Aziz's statement made no reference to this question. In the United States meanwhile, the CIA said Thursday it was checking all its past contacts with BCCI.

Sri Lanka

Parliament Passes State of Emergency Extension

BK2607111091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0749 GMT 26 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 26 (LANKAPUVATH)—The motion to extend the state of emergency was passed in Parliament Thursday night by a majority of 79 with 121 voting for and 42 against. The SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna] and USA [United Socialist Alliance] voted against while the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] and SLMC [Sri Lanka Muslim Congress] were not present at the time of voting.

Tamil Groups Hope Delhi Talks To End War

BK2707132291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front has hoped that Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. Harold Herath's talks in New Delhi will pave the way to end the war in the northeast of the island. In a statement in Colombo today, it said there is a need for immediate and serious joint efforts by both the countries to uphold and implement the

Indo-Sri Lanka accord. Another group, People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, PLOTE, said India's cooperation is vital for Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, at least six soldiers and a member of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization were killed in a land mine explosion set off by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in eastern Batticaloa this morning. A military spokesman said that additional reinforcements were advancing in preparation for the final push on the besieged Elephant Pass army camp in northern Sri Lanka. He said the LTTE continued sporadic mortar attacks which were repulsed by the government troops.

Second LTTE Attack on Elephant Pass Repulsed

BK2707115191 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1037 GMT 27 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 27 (LANKAPUVATH)—Troops of the beleaguered Elephant Pass camp repulsed another LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] mortar and small arms fire attack in the early hours of this morning, the 2nd in 24 hours, as the Operation 'Balavegaya' task force continued inducting men and material including mobile equipment more suited to the terrain, in preparation for the final assault on the LTTE before reaching security forces camp. The Elephant Pass camp has been under seige for the past 17 days. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the two brigades which secured a beach-head at Vettilaikerni on July 14th have now been considerably enlarged and strengthened in order to demolish the remaining LTTE lines and move the 3 remaining kilometres to the Elephant Pass camp. The sources said the LTTE which had suffered its heaviest losses ever in the battle at Elephant Pass with over 900 killed and more than thousand wounded were now feverishly conscripting Tamil youth in Jaffna to replace the dead and wounded.

Meanwhile seven soldiers and a TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] member were killed when a security forces railway line patrol ran into an LTTE ambush this morning at a point between Chenkaladi and Sittandi in the eastern Batticaloa District. A child who was nearby was killed when the terrorists opened fire.

Elephant Pass Final Push Begins

BK2807123091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1126 GMT 28 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, July 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—Heavy fighting was reported today as the four brigades of 'Operation Balawegaya' began their final westwards push to the beleaguered Elephant Pass security forces camp.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that according to latest reports received this evening from the battlefield despite stiff resistance, ground troops backed by air cover had moved forward half a kilometre and were now two and a half kilometres from the camp.

LTTE casualties were reported heavy.

Operation Balawegaya began on July 14, with the landing of two seaborne brigades at Vettilaikerni, on the south east coast of the Jaffna Peninsula, and 10 kilometres from the Elephant Pass security forces camp. Government troops have overcome heavy enemy resistance in pushing forward a distance of seven and a half kilometres since securing a beach-head two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, the heroic defenders of Elephant Pass who have been under siege for the last 18 days, fought off a massive LTTE attack in an epic 10 hour battle which commenced at 2100 hours (local time) Saturday [27 July] night and ended at 0700 hours (local time) Sunday morning.

Reports from Elephant Pass stated that the terrorists had attacked in waves during the 10 hours of intense fighting, but had been beaten back each time with heavy casualties.

The LTTE frontlines were so badly battered that the terrorists had cried out into their walkie talkies that they could not fight any longer, only to be told by the leaders that they would be shot dead if they tried to retreat.

One of 50 bodies of dead terrorists seen from the outer perimeter of the Elephant Pass camp was that of the attack leader codenamed 'Mama', the Vavuniya military wing leader.

An estimated 300 terrorists were wounded in this battle.

Four soldiers were killed and 15 wounded.

Over 1000 LTTE terrorists have now been killed and about 1500 wounded in the 18 day battle for Elephant Pass.

A total of 129 soldiers have been killed and 420 wounded in the battle.

Curfews were clamped today on the district of Jaffna, except the island of Karathivu and Mullaittivu, while the curfew in the Kilinochchi District continues. No vehicular traffic is allowed north of Vavuniya.

Meanwhile, LTTE leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran has gone on the LTTE radio exhorting his cadres to fight on despite heavy losses, as a defeat at Elephant Pass would be the end of the LTTE and of Eelam.

Military analysts told LANKAPUVATH that Prabhakaran was desperate, as India had blocked all LTTE activities and was hounding the terrorists. Most of the terrorists in South India had returned for fear of arrests.

Movement of men, arms and ammunition across the Palk Strait, the main supply route, had come to a near standstill. The wounded had now to be treated in Jaffna, where the hospitals were overflowing with LTTE wounded at Elephant Pass.

Hence, it was a do or die battle for the LTTE, a final fling before throwing in the towel.

The analysts recalled that when the LTTE's biggest bunker in Jaffna was captured, at Velvettiturai in 1987, Prabhakaran had tried to swallow a cyanide capsule, but had been prevented from committing suicide by his aides.